FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Israeli Planes Downed — An Israeli plane was downed and its pilot captured when Israeli aircraft overflew the Al-Biqa' valley on 6 December, Beirut radio reported. Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon said the Israeli aircraft were raiding Syrian positions in the area. Earlier, the Syrians shot down an Israeli drone, according to the radios.

Syrian Reaction to U.S. Raids — The U.S. air raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon was "part of the U.S.-Israeli design" reached during the Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington, Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas declared in a statement carried by SANA. Syria's air defenses have a legitimate right to defend Syrian forces, which will "always confront any foreign air force" overflying their positions, he added. Talas announced in remarks reported by Beirut radio that the American pilot will be released "when the war ends and when the Americans leave Lebanon." The pilot is in good condition and will be shown to journalists soon after the completion of his interrogation, Talas stated. He also said the body of the U.S. pilot killed in the raid will be returned to the United States.

Meanwhile, President Hafiz al-Asad sent written messages to Arab and world leaders warning that the U.S. intervention in Lebanon and agreement with Israel may lead to a military attack on Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation, Damascus television reported. In an official statement carried by SANA, the Syrian Government called on all the Arabs to "confront" the threat posed by the U.S.-Israeli "agreements of a strategic nature" and announced that it is studying ways to "redress the balance" of forces in the region.

Earlier, in a commentary on the U.S. justification for the raid, Damascus radio asked rhetorically what President Reagan might say if another country carried out reconnaissance flights over U.S. bases in the FRG and then claimed the right to bomb U.S. forces after the latter took defensive action. Syria does not want a military dispute with the United States, the radio stressed, but sending U.S. planes to overfly Syrian positions is a "deliberate act of provocation and aggression" against which the Syrians will defend themselves.

Further Arab Reaction — The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers and Jordanian National Consultative Council condemned the U.S. raid as well as the recent U.S.-Israeli agreement, according to KUNA and Amman radio. A Riyadh radio commentary said the raid infringes the declared American peacekeeping role and is seen by observers to be linked with the U.S.-Israeli agreement. On the other hand, the Command Council of the Phalangist Lebanese Forces expressed support for all measures adopted by the Multinational Force, particularly the U.S. contingent, according to a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Israel

Explosion in Jerusalem — An explosive charge went off in a bus in Jerusalem, wounding about 40 people, IDF Radio reported.

U.S. Agreements — Reporting to the Knesset on his talks in Washington, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied speculation on secret military agreements, stating that nothing was agreed "that was not made public" and that "Israel did not undertake any military commitments whatsoever," according to IDF Radio. Shamir also reviewed the accomplishments of his visit, including agreements in the security and economic fields; an increase in the grant share of U.S. military aid; agreements to sell airport and harbor facilities to U.S. forces; and the U.S.-Israeli political-military working team, which is to hold its first meeting in January.

PLO Affairs

Preparations to evacuate PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and forces loyal to him from Tripoli are "under way," Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon radio reported, following 'Arafat's agreement that the Lebanese Internal Security Forces should oversee the withdrawal. Commenting on the withdrawal in an interview with the London-based *AL-MAJALLAH*, 'Arafat outlined four conditions to be met before he would depart: confirmation of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians and its unity as "inviolable," an Arab summit conference, the withdrawal of Syrian and Libyan forces from around Tripoli, and security guarantees for the Palestinian camps in northern Lebanon. On the latter point, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio cited 'Arafat's remark that "differences and vagueness" still surround the issues of security for Tripoli and the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps after the pro-'Arafat forces' withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated that he would guarantee Tripoli would not be attacked after 'Arafat's departure. In a statement cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, Al-Qadhdhafi also promised that Libya would accept 'Arafat and those with him should he decide to seek refuge in the country. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak likewise offered to host the PLO chairman in Cairo, according to 'Arafat as cited by MENA.

In exclusive remarks to the Jordanian *AD-DUSTUR*, a responsible Palestinian source affirmed that 'Arafat will leave Tripoli "soon" but maintained that his departure would not mean the end of a presence in northern Lebanon. The source revealed that the Palestinian command "stresses the need" for dialogue with Jordan based on PNC resolutions that "defined a confederation as a framework for Jordanian-Palestinian relations."

In another development, Fatah opposition leader Nimr Salih "strongly rejected" 'Arafat's call for a PNC meeting, characterizing it as "a call for separation," according to the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*. Salih warned that if a PNC session is held, those who attend "will be held accountable by the nationalists."

Syria

Leadership Group — A six-man collective leadership was established to run the country after President al-Asad's hospitalization last month, AFP reported citing the Paris-based weekly *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI*. The group comprises Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Ba'th Party National Command Deputy Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Hikmat ash-Shihabi, Generals 'Ali Haydar and Muhammad al-Khuli, and Defense Companies Commander Colonel Rif'at al-Asad, the president's brother.

Talas interview — Foreign media estimates of the number of Soviet experts in Syria are "very much exaggerated" while rumors about their departure are wishful thinking, since Soviet experts are routinely replaced every 2 years, Defense Minister Talas stated in an interview with the Paris magazine *AL-MUSTAQBAL*. As for U.S. accusations that Syria was responsible for the suicide bomb attacks on U.S., French, and Israeli forces in Lebanon, Talas said "the heroic Lebanese resistance was behind the blows dealt in Beirut and Tyre." Had the Palestinians resorted to such methods in the past, Israel would not have been established, he charged.

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Palestinian Factions Condemn U.S. Air Raid

Popular Struggle Front

JN051815 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has strongly condemned the aggressive action U.S. planes carreid out against the Syrian, Lebanese nationalist, and Palestinian forces in Lebanon. The Front asserted that this aggression is the result of the strategic agreement between the Zionist entity and the United States.

The Front's statement described the Syrian forces' retaliation against the aggression as a fierce blow dealt to the U.S.-Israeli agreement.

PFLP-GC Spokesman

JN051813 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1625 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] PFLP-GC official spokesman Fadl Shururu has asserted that U.S. aggression against the Syrian forces is a dangerous turning point in U.S. policy. Shururu said that the U.S. Administration has decided to expose its ugly face and to move from the stage of concern for Lebanon's sovereignty to the stage of directly entering the conflict arena in order to impose hegemony over the region by force.

Palestinian Communist Party

JN051818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Palestinian Communist Party considers the U.S. aggression as a dangerous escalation of the hostile U.S. action against Syria's firm national stand. The party's statement says that Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces are not alone in the battle.

The statement notes that all forces of liberation and progress in the world, headed by the friendly USSR, strongly support our joint struggle.

PFLP's Habash

JN060739 Damascus Doemstic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash has described the U.S. raids on the Syrian positions as an intensification in the hostile inclination of President Reagan's administration. In a statement yesterday, Habash said: These raids, which have taken place in the wake of the Israeli-U.S. agreement, are a sign of the policy that the Israeli-U.S. alliance will adopt toward Syria, the PLO, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces. Dr Habash saluted the Syrian confrontation of the U.S. raids, stressing that the PFLP will stand alongside Syria in its confrontation of Zionist-U.S. arrogance.

'Upheaval Movement'

JN060750 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — The upheaval movement within Fatah has praised the brave Syrian forces' confrontation of the aggressor U.S. planes, the downing of three U.S. planes, and the capture of one of their pilots. A statement from the upheaval movement said: This represents a significant mark in confronting the U.S. design in the region. The statement issued by the general command of Al-'Asifah forces yesterday pointed out that the decision to confront the aggressor U.S. planes was not only a military decision, but was also a political decision with important dimensions whose impact will be felt on the confrontation map of the Middle East.

In its statement, the revolutionary upheaval within the Fatah movement stressed that the aggressive U.S. raid means a military translation of the U.S. insistence on imposing the Camp David plan over the parties to steadfastness in the Lebanese arena — Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces. The statement adds: If within their political dimension the U.S. missiles constitute a means to strike at the forces of Arab confrontation as a prelude to implementing the Israeli-Phalangist agreement, then a response to them stresses the soundness and the need for continuing and strengthening the Palestinian, Syrian, and the nationalist Lebanese alliance, so that the day before yesterday's battle will be a step on the road of a qualitative development for victory and liberation. At the end of its statement, the upheaval within the Fatah movement greeted the Syrian leadership under President Hafiz al-Asad for its historical and political decision. It also greeted the Syrian eagles — the sons of the great Arab people — for their unique courage.

'Arafat Interviewed on Tripoli Situation

PM051623 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Dec 83 p 14

[Report on telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tripoli — date not given]

[Text] PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has warned that the situation in Tripoli "is still explosive" and that "anything could happen because the resolutions passed have not been implemented yet."

In an exclusive interview with *AL-MAJALLAH* over the telephone from Tripoli, 'Arafat said that "the military situation in Tripoli is frozen but some military preparations are under way, although not on the same scale as before." He added that these activities were being carried out by the dissident forces.

'Arafat was speaking to *AL-MAJALLAH* after the expiry of the deadline set for him to leave the capital of the north and after the announcement of the agreement, reached through Saudi mediation, to consolidate the cease-fire, settle Palestinian differences through dialogue, and withdraw the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli and adjacent areas.

'Arafat also said that the forces besieging Tripoli consist of two Syrian divisions, one pro-Syrian Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] brigade, and one battalion combining the dissident forces and Ahmad Jibril's forces. He revealed that the groups of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, which is led by Samir Ghawshah, are completely "out" because "some of them have joined us, some fled, and the rest were killed."

The Palestinian leader said that he doubts that former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami would withdraw his supporters from Tgripoli.

On the weapons deployed around Tripoli, 'Arafat said that "there are 154 artillery pieces including 122-mm, 130-mm, 155-mm, and 152-mm guns. This last type of gun was used in the shelling of Tripoli because of its ammunition and mass destruction qualities. This is in addition to 90 rocket launchers and 200 tanks including a T-72 tank battalion."

'Arafat maintained that the dissident groups have only 200 fighters participating in the battle with 200 more from the Ahmad Jibril group and a PLO brigade led by Tariq al-Khadra.

Yasir 'Arafat denied the existence of any direct bilateral contacts at present with any Syrian side, adding that past contacts with Dr Rif'at al-Asad have completely stopped. "I do not know why Dr al-Asad stopped these contacts," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat also said: "I want to thank some of my Arab brothers who are supporting us firmly in these difficult times. I particularly thank Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who proved his solid support for the Palestinian people when he sincerely and very clearly and candidly spoke out against the plot hatched against the Palestinian people."

'Arafat laid down the following four conditions for his departure from Tripoli: confirmation that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that its unity is inviolable; an urgent Arab summit conference; withdrawal of the Syrian and Libyan forces to their positions before the recent attack; and security guarantees for the Palestinian camps in northern lebanon.

On the future of Palestinian military and political action after the departure from Tripoli, 'Arafat said: "Tripoli is not the last Palestinian position and the PLO is not confined to Tripoli, Nahr al-Barid, and al-Baddawi. It represents the will of the Palestinian people and therefore it is present in the occupied territory and wherever else our Palestinian people are."

He added: "I did not come to Tripoli because it is the last Palestinian stronghold. I came because of certain circumstances related to the presence of our people and forces there. That is the why, the moment I feel that my presence is no longer necessary, I will leave, immediately, because my military headquarters is in San'a' and my political headquarters is in Tunis."

Referring to the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, Abu 'Ammar said that the doors to dialogue with Jordan are wide open. He added: Our relations with Jordan are relations of destiny and common history, future, and objectives. They have nothing to do with any power outside the framework of relations between the two peoples. As soon as the plot against us in Tripoli and the rest of Lebanon ends, we will meet with our brothers in Amman and resume our joint efforts in the interest of both our peoples and our Arab nation.

Ihdin Radio on Preparations for 'Arafat Departure

NC060834 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] In Tripoli, following the meeting between the northern Coordination Committee and Yasir 'Arafat, a Palestinian spokesman said the consultations at he meeting dealt with the continued violation of the cease-fire and a way of evacuating the fighters. As for the security force that will accompany the Palestinians who will leave Tripoli, the spokesman said: We have no objection to the Internal Security Forces or if a force is formed from the Internal Security Forces and certain local forces from Tripoli to which the Coordination Committee agree.

In the meantime, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, stated that Yasir 'Arafat handed the political committee which stems from the Higher Coordination Committee a written reply including an agreement on preparations for the withdrawal of the forces in keeping with [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami's request. He also submitted a timetable for the steps that must be followed to achieve this goal. It was reported that the Palestinian side is waiting for Karami's response. Abu Jihad estimated the number of the fighters who will depart Tripoli at approximately 4,000.

Captain 'Adnan al-Jisr, chairman of the political committee, yesterday said that Rashid Karami will convey to the committee his response within 24 hours regarding the departure from the city of 'Arafat and the other parties to the conflict.

Qaddumi Refuses To Replace 'Arafat

JN051305 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] A well-informed source in Amman has stated that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, recently refused a proposal by the members of the PLO Executive Committee that he replace 'Arafat. The same source added that Qaddumi refused to take 'Arafat's place because he does not believe that there is any need to remove Yasir 'Arafat from the PLO leadership.

USSR Mediating Between Iraq, Syria

GF051558 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 1

[Sattar Jabbar report]

[Text] Eminent Arab sources have told *AL-WATAN* that the Soviet Union is carrying out massive secret moves with Syria and Iraq to convince them to end their differences and enter into negotiations to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and rebuild the eastern front which includes geographically Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

According to these sources, the Soviet moves are in response to the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance. Besides, the Soviet Union is determined to end the Fatah differences through democratic dialogue as a means of preserving the PLO's unity. The only obstacle to these moves, according to these sources, is that Syria and Iraq are not prepared to forget their differences. They indicated that the mediation by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has not achieved the desired results.

It is known that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, visited the Soviet Union recently. In an interview with the Cairo newspaper *AL-AHRAM* the day before yesterday, the Iraqi President said: Our relations with the Soviet Union are good now after experiencing periods of strain.

The informed Arab sources say the Soviet Union told a number of Arab countries that Israel will launch a surprise attack against Syria because, according to them, unusual preparations by the Israelis are under way to launch such aggression.

Hani al-Hasan on PLO-Jordanian Dialogue

LD040243 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser to the brother commander Abu 'Ammar, has affirmed the need to safeguard the independence of Palestinian national decisionmaking and solve Arab differences, which benefit nobody except the Zionist enemy. Brother al-Hasan said in an interview with the BBC broadcast today that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue aims at creating the political and military front which is capable of confronting the Zionist enemy. This dialogue will not be a substitute for the Palestinian rights for which the PLO has been fighting. They are the legitimate rights to establish the Palestinian independent state on the soil of Palestine. He explained that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue also seeks to lay down a joint political visualisation of a coming working stage along the road of realzing the legitimate demands of the PLO.

Palestinian Official on Dialogue With Jordan

JN051317 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Dec 83 pp 1, 23

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Text] Will the PLO, forced by the Syrians, Libyans, and their agent dissidents, resort to a scorched-earth policy and to persuing Zionist and imperialist interests everywhere after leaving Tripoli?

This is the proposed question to which a responsible Palestinian source replied in an exclusive talk to *AD-DUSTUR*. He said:The PLO in general, and the Fatah movement in particular, are always working for the Palestinian people's interests. In this statement, the Palestinian official did not rule out the possibility of resorting to such a policy. *AD-DUSTUR* has information that a Palestinian-Fatah decision was adopted recently to use all methods in order to protect the Palestinian gains and achieve the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights.

Concering the Palestinian command's opinion regarding Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the high-ranking Palestinian official said that while the Palestinian command positively records Jordan's stand on the declared Syrian-Libyan war against the PLO, this command stresses the need for a dialogue with Jordan, provided that the steps and coordination between the two sides are well studied according to the PNC resolutions which defined a confederation as a framework for Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He added that whatever happens, the Palestinian command will not retreat from its firm concept with regard to the distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the unity of the Jordanian-Palestinian people.

Affirming that Abu 'Ammar will leave Tripoli soon, the Palestinian official explained that the official departure of the Palestinian revolution from Tripoli does not mean the end of its presence in northern Lebanon. There will remain the popular support which the Tripoli citizens and the Palestinian camp inhabitants expressed for it — support which makes the Palestinian revolution the biggest political force in northern Lebanon. He said that the official departure from Tripoli, which 'Arafat had expected, will place the Palestinian resistance at the beginning of a new phase.

The high-ranking Palestinian official expressed the belief that the departure from Tripoli will produce a new structure for the PLO, based on new internal alliances whose main elements would be those forces who firmly supported the PLO's unity and legitimate leadership and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. He added that the upcoming phase will be totally directed to the occupied territories on the military, political, and organizational levels in order to entrench popular Palestinian unanimity around the PLO's legitimate command, particularly since the world considers PLO strength as emanating from its popularity amid Palestinian circles in general and inside the occupied territories in particular.

The Palestinian official said that the new tasks awaiting the PLO command is to expand its struggle action on a world-wide basis in order to tighten isolation around Israel and the enemies of the Palestinian revolution and strengthen Palestinian presence following PLO preoccupation with the battle against Syria and Libya.

PLO's Ad-Dajani Views U.S. Mideast Policy

PM041541 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Nov 83 p 7

[PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani article: "U.S. Action in Election Year"]

[Text] How will the United States deal with the Palestine problem in the short term following the Tripoli incidents and after entering the election year?

We point to Tripoli incidents because they will have far-reaching effects on Palestinian action and the attitudes of other countries toward the PLO. In the atmosphere created by the Tripoli incidents and in view of the disappointment and perplexity felt by many countries, we should expect certain parties to the Arab-Israel conflict, especially Israel and the United States, to exploit what has happened to put forward ideas serving their policies in the area. Israel has begun doing this by stressing the need to exclude the PLO from any considerations.

We point to the United States entering the election year because it is a distinctive year in the U.S. President's term which is primarily governed by the requirements of the election year, particularly when the President is running for a second term. It is known that the Palestine problem and the "Middle East" crisis, according to the West, is one of the principal issues on which the election battle is fought. It is also known that U.S. Jewish forces become very active during an election year.

The United States itself is also exploiting what has happened in Tripoli to submit new ideas serving its policies in the area. Obviously, what it submits will govern its attitude toward the Palestine problem in the short term, and from this stems the importance of analyzing and discussing what it submits. In this regard we would like to discuss Secretary of State George Shultz' 17 November speech to the Council of Jewish Unions [as published] in Atlanta, Georgia.

It is important to note the venue at which Mr Shultz put forward the U.S. Administration's ideas, which is the Council of Jewish unions. It is interesting that U.S. officials or candidates for political positions often use U.S. Jewish forums to declare their attitudes toward the Palestine problem.

In his speech Mr Shultz explained that during the election year the United States will be preoccupied with the Middle East problem. "Those who believe that President Reagan's administration will shun the sensitive issues of the Middle East during the election year are wrong." Mr Shultz put forward the ideas that govern this U.S. preoccupation with the problem. With regard to the current fighting in Tripoli, he believes that "this conflict will certainly have a great effect on Jordan and the Palestinians as well as on the future of the peace process." He did not explain the nature of these effects, but only made an indirect reference, insinuating that after these incidents the PLO can no longer be regarded as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, thus exploiting these incidents in the service of the idea of not having dealings with the PLO. With regard to Israeli policy in occupied Palestinian territory, Shultz confirmed his country's opposition to the building of new Israeli settlements or the expansion of existing ones. He called on Israel to show "moderation" in its policy toward the 1.3 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. He explained this "moderation" as "providing more economic opportunities and public administration functions and paying greater attention to the quality of their life." He made this conditional upon the possibility of "strengthening the Palestinians' acceptance of a peaceful future with Israel," so that they will be given a certain share in this future. Obviously, after refusing to have dealings with the PLO, he wants to have dealings with Palestinians who accept a peaceful future that does not ensure their inalienable rights and keeps them under occupation in return for improving their living conditions.

After putting forward these two ideas Mr Shultz sought to stress that "the door will remain open to negotiations on President Reagan's initiative." When asked about Israel's rejection of this initiative, he said that he has "no dought that if an Arab leader comes forward with a mandate for negotiation on the basis of this initiative, Israel will not miss this historic opportunity." Concluding his statement, he pointed to his country's support for the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in order to reassure Israel about the nature of the agreement that the United States would support. He also pointed out that the United States adopts a stand that does not permit extremist forces to obstruct a just political solution to the Lebanese problem at the reconciliation conference in Geneva, thus telling the parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict that the United States will firmly confront those who oppose it.

It is clear from Mr Shultz' statement that in the election year the U.S. Administration wants to act on two levels. On one level it wants its dealings to be with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in an attempt to bring to he fore a leadership that would accept the principle of the "Israel-U.S. peace" in return for improving the living conditions of the Palestinian inhabitants and enabling them to exercise some sort of local administration.

On the other level it wants dealings with "an Arab leader" given a mandate to enter into negotiations on the basis of Reagan's initiative. The United States is expecting recent events to contribute to its success on both levels. Is the United States right in its expectations?

Our answer to this is in the negative. We are certain the United States is wrong in its expectation because the crisis through which the PLO is passing will not prompt any of our people's leaders inside the country to bypass the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of this people. On the contrary, the crisis will enhance the adherence of our people and their leaders inside the country to the PLO. It will direct their efforts toward dealing with it and putting their house in order. Also, the crisis will not lead to the PLO leadership's abandoning its right by empowering a party to act on its behalf. On the contrary, the crisis will increase the leadership's adherence to this right. We should add here that no other party in the circumstances of the present crisis is ready to discuss the question of giving it a mandate because it will not be able to act in the atmosphere the crisis has created, nor will it be ready to accept its consequences.

The United States must realize that an atmosphere of crisis and disputes in the Palestinian and the Arab fold is never conducive to discussion of any settlement and that any attempt to take advantage of it with the aim of bypassing the established facts will fail and will further complicate matters. This will be the fate of any U.S. attempt to bypass the PLO despite everything that has happened to it. We are not making an emotional judgment but rather judging things very objectively out of our realization of the atmosphere that crises create. It is interesting to note that some U.S. experts who specialize in our area's affairs have observed this fact and spoken about it. One of these was William Quandt, who expects the reality which the PLO represents to become stronger after this crisis because the Palestinian people's belief in the need to obtain their national inalienable rights will become stronger since this is the way to end their suffering.

The United States must also realize that increasing extremism in Israel will prompt the Israelis to miscalculate the effects of the PLO crisis on the course of events in the area and encourage them to go too far in defying the world community's will and continuing their aggression, which is reflected in the policy of settlement in the West Bank and Gaza and of occupation and domination in southern Lebanon as well as the policy of preparing for aggression against Jordan and Syria. This extremism is symbolized in the fact that the three top men in the Israeli Cabinet, Prime Minister Shamir, Defense Minister Arens, and Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad, were among those who rejected the Camp David agreements because, in their view, they contained Israeli concessions.

In the light of the above, we must say that if the United States intends to act during election year, the U.S. Administration must pave the way by a reappraisal of this action in the past 3 years and put its fingers on the defects of this action from the beginning.

Successive U.S. administrations since the Nixon era have adopted the principle of peacemeal dealing with the problem of the occupied territories and have endorsed Israel's policy of not withdrawing from these territories except stage by stage and through direct negotiations based on exchanging land for peace and satisfying Israel's "security" demands as well as imposing normalization in accordance with a special concept. Although President Carter's administration tried to urge Israel to respond to President as-Sadat's initiative, it was in the end shocked by the Israeli interpretations of the Camp David agreements and Security Council Resolution 242, thus bringing the autonomy talks to a deadlock. President Reagan's administration then came along and concluded a strategic agreement with Israel, gave it the green light to launch its adventure in southern Lebanon, and in effect remained silent over Israel's annexation of the Golan and its policy of settlement, which Washington simply described as a stumbling block to peace, failing to label it as illegitimate.

This administration also sought to conclude the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in which Israel used its well-known methods to impose its conditions and exploit the weak position of the Lebanese negotiator.

The U.S. Administration must study the result of all this in the area. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon caused great suffering, did not achieve a specific objective for Israel, and involved Israel in a quagmire. The conclusion of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement aroused strong opposition in Lebanon and Syria that led to its practical "freezing" at the reconciliation conference in Geneva. Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza is effectively inflaming the spirit of resistance by our people there and has done nothing to encourage any Arab party to join the negotiations "under any conditions before it is too late." The situation in the area has now reached the peak of tension and, as a result, the United States has dispatched a massive fleet to the eastern Mediterranean. Where is the situation heading?

It is time for the United States to admit that its attitude toward Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is the principal reason for the calamities from which the area is suffering. It must adopt another stand based on immediate Israeli withdrawal from these territories — from the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. It is time for the U.S. Administration to realize that, on the one hand, the idea of a "process of political negotiation" based on singling out one Arab front and relying on a gradual process is wrong and cannot be repeated after the Camp David negotiations and, on the other, that the circumstances of the other Arab parties do not allow them this option. It must recall in this regard what President as-Sadat proposed as the basis for his initiative in his speech before the Knesset, which was total Israeli withdrawal at the earliest possible moment from all the occupied Arab territories and on all the fronts as well as the realization of the Palestinian people's national rights as a means of achieving a just and lasting peace.

The U.S. Administration's attitude toward the PLO is still defective and is causing it suffering. This attitude comprises nonrecognition and refusal to have dealings with it unless it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts Resolution 242 in accordance with a secret agreement which Kissinger concluded with Israel in 1975. This attitude is a continuation of the U.S. attitude toward it since its formation in 1964. A report by the research section of the Library of Congress says that "with the Reagan administration's arrival in the White House the tone employed with respect to the PLO has changed from what it used to be during the Carter administration."

The new administration sponsored strong opposition to the PLO and the President and his aides described it as "terrorist." Secretary of State Haig and other officials reiterated U.S. adherence to the 1975 agreement, and in early 1981 President Reagan said that the PLO should not represent the Palestinians in the peace talks because "it is not elected." The report notes that, despite this declared doctrinal stand, successive administrations have carried out several indirect contacts with the PLO. These include Philip Habib's moves during the Carter and Reagan administrations in 1981 and 1982. The report, dated August 1982, concludes that "U.S. decisionmakers might find that the search for a credible Palestinian axis cannot be complete without some accomodation and understanding with the PLO."

It can be said that the Reagan administration hovered around this idea without embracing it. But in the spring of this year it soon abandoned the idea and sought to ask the Arab states to nullify the Rabat resolution regarding the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. This U.S. attitude faced opposition from several Arab quarters, and subsequent developments in the Palestinian arena generated new factors which imposed themselves on the situation. Many quarters in Washington have expressed doubts about the soundness of the U.S. stand.

It is time for the U.S. Administration to admit that its attitude toward the PLO is wrong and that the right attitude is to recognize it as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. If it is to take fruitful action during the election year, it must adopt these two stands and thus rectify the defect of its action since the beginning. It must be pointed out that the seminar which former Presidents Carter and Ford organized at Carter's scientific research center has thrown light on these two stands. We also would recall that the two former presidents stated on 10 October 1981 as they were returning from President as-Sadat's funeral that there is a need for the United States to recognize the PLO and urged the Reagan administration to do this.

Nimr Salih on PNC, U.S. Raids, Other Topics

GF051902 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 5 Dec 83 pp 1, 11

[*AL-KHALIJ* correspondent Jum'ah al-Lami dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Nimr Salih, alias Abu Salih, one of the Fatah opposition leaders, strongly rejected the call for convening the PNC. He said that a call for convening the PNC is a call for separation.

Nimr Salih did not rule out the possibility that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will succeed in holding an extraordinary session. He said: If such a session is held, those who attend it will be held accountable by the nationalists. We do not expect anyone to respond to this call because it divides the Palestinian national stance.

Abu Salih praised the action carried out by the Syrian Army yesterday, saying: Syria is confronting the United States, and those who doubt the Syrian stance can see today what has taken place in the Lebanese airspace. There is a war going on between Syria and the United States and military statements are being issued in Damascus and Washington.

Referring to the opposition's view on the program which has been proposed by the joint PFLP-DFLP leadership, he said: We have not found anything new in this program, but we respect the ideas of others. The program did not deal with our uprising. How can a democratic reconciliation program ignore us and how will it be able to achieve its goals? He added: Despite that, we welcome any idea which enables the Palestinians to come out of the current crisis and we welcome any effort that ensures the unity of Palestinian work.

Abu Salih considered the memorandum which the Palestinian mediation committee led by Ibrahim Bakr proposed as "a final document which calls for proclaiming a political program that will ensure the unity of the Palestinians and develop plans for implementing this program".

Abu Salih said: "The committee's call for forming a committee, which would not include 'Arafat, to supervise Fatah means condemning 'Arafat and his practices." They thought they would find a solution to the Palestinian crisis and they knew the solution. If 'Arafat had agreed to the memorandum, he would have saved the Palestinian people's blood and energy," he added.

Abu Salih denied that there is an intention to form a new PLO by the Fatah opposition, the PFLP-GC, As-Sa'iqah, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. "The Camp David countries are calling for splitting the PLO and for forming a new PLO," he said. "The opposition will not accept a new PLO or a new Fatah," he affirmed.

Abu Salih sharply criticized 'Arafat's intention to reopen the dialogue with Jordan, and said this dialogue is based on the Reagan plan. "Is this Palestinian legitimacy?" he asked. "Legitimacy is commitment to Fatah's program," he replied.

Abu Salih reiterated the opposition's commitment to the resolutions of the Coordination Committee which is chaired by Rashid Karami.

Abu Salih called on all the fighters not to leave Tripoli and northern Lebanon and said: We are sending daily messages to them so that they stay with us because the Palestinian gun should be directed against Israel and United States. He said: The number of Palestinian fighters in Al-Biqa' has doubled since the uprising.

Turbul Radio on 'Arafat-Phalangist Links

NC060752 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Reports from Tripoli indicate that 'Arafat has begun to establish close relations with the Phalangist gangs. The reports add that 'Arafat is in constant contact with Phalangist Fadi Afram through women who arrive in Tripoli. One of these women is Nariman Ja'ja'.

Algiers VOP Denounces Arab Cooperation With U.S.

LD060031 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] No matter how many interpretations one sees about the aim behind the barbarous American raids on several areas of Lebanon and the destruction they caused to military and civilian targets, one truth remains quite clear to all: However sincere the intentions of the Arab officialdom in their subservience and alliance with the U.S. imperialists against the revolutionary and free men of this nation and this greater Arab homeland, this subservience and alliance cannot be on equal footing. This is because the Zionist enemy occupies the heart of this alliance.

As the Zionist enemy through his alien entity exists in the heart of the Arab homeland and the Arab nation, any Arab-American alliance cannot benefit anyone except the Zionist enemy and the American enemy. Out of necessity and inevitability,it serves the American and Zionist interest. Consequently, it is against the interests of the Arab masses and their struggling forces. It is against the interests of the Arab homeland and Arab land.

We are saying this, having seen the Israeli Air Force and the multinational air force broach the Arab sky for some time now and strafe at will any area which they claim is a source of danger to them and to their colonial occupation of Lebanese Arab territory. From all the foregoing, it becomes manifest to us, in a manner not open to argument, that any alliance or official Arab agreement withthe Zionist enemies or the imperialists means only one thing: that this alliance is treasonous and suspect, and hence it becomes imperative that it must be resisted and fought with armed revolutionary violence, because its aims are clear and its conspiratorial outlines against the pan-Arab and national interests are clear. They are against even those who conclude such cheap alliances. We say this, certain that the magic will rebound on the magicians who are trying to tamper with the destiny of their people and the destiny of their homeland.

At the same time, we call for all the sincere rifles in this Arab homeland to be aimed at the Zionist and imperialist enemies, with a sincere unity whose aim is to liberate occupied Arab soil from the invaders who are inflicting on our Arab and Palestinian soil destruction, death, and colonial settlement.

We, the Palestinian fighters, have experienced this truth more than any others. We have felt it and dealt with it in our daily lives from the time we set out with our armed revolution on 1 January 1965 until today. We say this, certain that our Arab nation will one day realize this truth and march alongside us on the road of right which some people have been trying to stop us from following. But they will not succeed. The rifles of liberation taken up by our revolutionary heroes point at Palestine.

Salah Khalaf Addresses Rally in Bonn

LD042243 Kuwait KUNA in English 1800 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Bonn, Dec 4 (KUNA) — A top Palestinian official was quoted here as saying that the breakaway movement within the mainstream Fatah commando group is but one part of the conspiracy that the Palestinians confronted which began by the Zionist scheme to set up a Jewish state in Palestine. Member of Fatah Central Committee (Abu Iyad) [Salah Khalaf] who arrived here last night to attend the celebration marking the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people said in a speech that the aim of that conspiracy is not to strike Fatah but the Palestinian revolution as whole. He added this would not be the last part of conspiracy and accused the Libyan and Syrian governments of "serving the U.S. policy which in turn is motivated by international Zionism."

He pointed out that Fatah has never used weapons against any Palestinian and is having faith in democracy, but at the same time rejects Arab mandate and is advocating the independence of the Palestinian decision "which Yasir 'Arafat (PLO chairman) has become the symbol of."

Abu Iyad said the U.S. policy was clear since 1965 when Washington rejected the PLO, representation of the Palestinians, the Palestinian state, the Palestinian right to self-determination and the Arab rights as a whole.

Al-Buq'ah Refugee Camp Supports 'Arafat

JN031010 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 25

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — A popular meeting was held in the Al-Buq'ah refugee camp yesterday in which number of the camp inhabitants participated.

During the meeting, the conferees thanked Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn for supporting Palestinian legitimacy under Yasir 'Arafat.

The conferees asserted adherence to the PLO's legitimacy under 'Arafat as the symbol of the Palestinian people's struggle.

The conferees denounced the Syrian and Libyan regimes' stand toward Palestinian legitimacy and the attempts made by both regimes to topple Palestinian legitimacy and impose tutelage over Palestinian decisionmaking.

The conferees announced their reservations over the statement issued by the Palestinian reconciliation committee, which came late and disappointed the refugee camp people. The conferees called on the committee to announce a firm stand toward those who are killing Palestinian children in northern Lebanon and those who announced the downfall of Palestinian legitimacy.

The conferees wondered: Where was the 18-member committee during the Syrian-Libyan attack against the Palestinian refugee camps in northern Lebanon?

Arab Interior Ministers Conference Begins

JN051403 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1205 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad — Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim opened the second session of the Arab interior ministers conference which began at the conference hall today. 'Izzat Ibrahim delivered a speech in which he conveyed leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Arab interior ministers and their delegations and his hopes that they succeed in this conference.

'Izzat Ibrahim said that the Iraqi heroes have been fighting for more than 3 years against the forces of the aggressor Iranian regime, which has tried to desecrate our sacred soil. The RCC vice chairman asserted that none of the Arab nation's enemies can encroach on this nation's sovereignty and that the great Iraqi people are defending this nation and expressing its will. He said that the Iraqi people are defending their freedom, dignity, revolution, and principles which they accepted as a path for glory to regain the humane, noble role of this blessed nation.

'Izzat Ibrahim noted that while this session is convening under these circumstances in which our great Arab nation is passing, struggling for its existence and its dignity, its enemies are trying to tarnish its image by all means at a time when Iraq is standing like a great dam in the face of the onslaught against the great Arab civilization.

The RCC vice chairman said that from the first day of the aggression of the Iranian rulers, who have expansionist ambitions in our countries, we have realized that this aggression was not only against Iraq. The Iranian rulers have chosen Iraq to be a bridgehead through which this aggression will expand to the Arab Gulf countries in particular and other parts of the Arab homeland in order to divide it and obliterate its identity.

'Izzat Ibrahim said that supporting the mutiny against the PLO's legitimate authority, aiming the deadly weapons against the Lebanese and Palestinian old men and children, and announcing complete cooperation and coordination with what some parties call the Iranian revolution, as well as the Iranian regime seeking help from the Zionist arsenal, characterize the conspiracy aimed against the entire Arab nation through Iraq's giant revolution.

Joirdanian Minister of Interior Ahmad 'Ubaydat and Moroccan Minister of Interior Driss Basri arrived in Baghdad this morning to participate in the second session of the Arab interior ministers conference.

In a statement to INA, Jordanian Interior Minister 'Ubaydat said: On this occasion, I have the pleasure to carry to the Iraqi brothers the sincere and fraternal greetings and wishes from the Jordanian people, and from King Husayn ibn Talal to leader President Saddam Husayn, hoping that the fraternal Iraqi people will continue with their victory to abort the schemes of the hostile forces which aim at encroaching on Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a statement to INA, Moroccan Interior Minister Basri expressed happiness at visiting Baghdad. He said: I am carrying the greetings and appreciation of His Majesty King Hassan II and his government to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, whom we bless for their great victory against the enemy in the battle of destiny they are waging against the invasion aimed against them and their soil.

Iraqi Minister Meets Counterparts

JN051824 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1725 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text]Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and minister of interior, met today with a number of Arab interior ministers who are participating in the second session of the Arab interior ministers conference. Sa'dun Shakir met with Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri, Saudi Interior Minister His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the head of the Palestinian delegation Rafiq an-Natshah, Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani, Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib, Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and Jordanian Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat. During the meetings, they exchanged viewpoints on strengthening cooperation between the Arab interior ministries in order to serve the Arab nation's interests and reinforce and safeguard pan-Arab security.

GULF AFFAIRS

Papers Comment on U.S. Raids in Lebanon

GF051112 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 5 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Manama, 5 Dec (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* has noted editorially that no Arab country will be safe from the new U.S-Zionist aggressive axis and from its future expansionist plans. The paper said: It is enough to realize that there are plans engineered by the Zionists and executed by the Americans to comprehend the harm and devastation that will be inflicted upon the whole Middle East region in the coming stage.

The paper continued: The United States' decision to launch its first raid on the Arab territories and its choice of this bloody option will undoubtedly have harmful effects on the U.S. interests. The United States has ridiculed the Arabs, but making the Arab territories a goal for U.S. military adventurism — with the participation of the Zionists — is something beyond the limits of endurance.

Concluding, the paper said: The Arabs will prove they are capable of demonstrating steadfastness before the new axis by inflicting the same amount of harm as is inflicted on their territories, or even more. The United States will not be successful — no matter how powerful its military nuclear and nonnuclear power — in subjugating the Arab nation to the loathed Zionist entity. This insane power can cause devastation, but it will never succeed in forcing these disdainful people to give in.

The Qatari newspaper *AL-'ARAB* noted that the savage barbaric aggression which has launched by the planes of the 6th Fleet against the Syrian positions in Lebanon unveiled before the world the U.S. ugly face "and completely exposed the U.S. aggressive goals." This also demonstrated the genuine imperialist role of the U.S. policy and the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist alliance.

The paper called for a Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese progressive front vis-a-vis the U.S.-Zionist aggression, urging the Arabs to make decisive decisions.

KUWAIT

Cabinet Condemns U.S. Attacks in Lebanon

LD051309 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1114 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Dec (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has expressed its profound concern toward the blatant attacks against the Syrian forces in Lebanon. The Council denounced the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel and considered it as overt U.S. bias toward the Zionist enemy.

In a statement issued following its weekly meeting today, the Council of Ministers said that "it reviewed current events in fraternal Lebanon and the Arab region in general and the U.S. forces' attack on the Syrian forces." The statement added, "The Council of Ministers is extremely disturbed by the flagrant aggression against the Syrian forces and considers this aggression as a departure from the task entrusted to the Multinational Force and violation of international law and the UN Charter that is likely to endanger the peace of the Arab region and the world."

The statement also said "that the Council denounces the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, which it considers openly prejudicial in favor of the Zionist enemy by the United States."

"The Council of Ministers," the statement said, "feels that the stability of the region demands that the United States reconsider its policy in the Middle East and take into consideration the security of the Arab nation and the safety of the Arab people in Lebanon and the rights of the Palestinian people."

UK's Luce Arrives for 'Important' Talks

LD052252 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 5 Dec (KUNA) — British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce arrived here from Damascus today for a 1-day visit to which he said that he attaches great importance. In a press statement he stated that he is looking forward to hearing the Kuwaiti Government's views on what he described "the important" developments in the region. He added that his talk with Kuwaiti officials will deal with important issues: bilateral relations, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Luce was asked to clarify his government's stance on yesterday's American air raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon. He stated: "We do not believe that the cycle violence is a suitable policy. We are interested in concentrating all our efforts and the efforts of the parties concerned on reconciliation and the resumption of the Geneva talks."

The British minister is to hold a press conference tomorrow.

AS-SIYASAH Suspended for Violating Publication Law

GF051348 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Our sister paper *AS-SIYASAH* was suspended yesterday for publishing an article which the Ministry of Information considered in violation of the publication law.

OMAN

Saudi Foreign Minister Pays 1-Day Visit

Arrival Statement

GF051409 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Muscat, 5 Dec (WAKH) — Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign affairs minister, arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a short visit to Oman. On arrival, Prince Sa'ud said he will meet during his visit with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of

Oman and hold talks with Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of foreign affairs. He said his visit to Oman comes within the framework of continued consultations and coordination between the two countries on various Arab and international issues.

He said the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the threats to expand it worry the region and cause apprehension about the situation. He affirmed that continuing consultations, cooperation, and coordination among the GCC countries will enable them to positively affect the course of events in the region.

Referring to the situation in Lebanon, he expressed his regret over the tension prevailing in Lebanon and the escalation of military actions. He expressed hope that this escalation would stop so that it would not affect the positive results achieved by the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference which was held in Geneva recently and that external events would not harm the reconciliation which became evident among the Lebanese parties recently. He referred to the military actions which Lebanon witnessed recently and said they would not aid in easing the Lebanese crisis.

Received by Qabus

GF051815 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received in his office at As-Sib al-'Amir Palace today His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign affairs minister, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Leaves 5 December

GF051818 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign affairs minister, left the country today after a short visit to the Sultanate. His royal highness was seen off by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Saudi charge d'affaires in Muscat; and 'Abd al-Hafiz Musallam al-Qalam, assistant chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

PDRY

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Air Raids

GF051914 Aden ANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Aden, 5 Dec (ANA) — The PDRY has condemned the aggressive air raids the U.S. forces in Lebanon carried out against the fraternal Syrian Army yesterday. It expressed its full support for fraternal Syria in confronting any Zionist-imperialist aggression to undermine its legitimate pan-Arab and national rights and sovereignty. This came in a statement by a Foreign Ministry official spokesman. The following is the text of the statement:

The PDRY followed with great concern the reports about the aggressive air raids which warplanes of the U.S. forces in Lebanon carried out against positions of the fraternal Syrian Army. These raids were new proof of the aggressive task of the U.S. military forces and bases in the Arab region, which not only render various forms of assistance and support to the aggressive Israeli forces but also carry out direct aggressive acts against Arab peoples and countries in implementation of the aggressive goals of the new U.S.-Israeli agreement, which is a continuation of the existing strategic military alliance between the United States and Israel aimed at liquidating the Arab Palestinian people's just cause and imposing imperialist and Zionist hegemony on our Arab peoples.

While announcing its denunciation of this blatant aggressive action by the U.S. Administration, the PDRY Government affairms its full support for fraternal Syria (?in confronting) any [words indistinct] Zionist aggression intended to undermine its legitimate national and pan-Arab rights and sovereignty. It also calls on all Arab countries to adopt a decisive Arab policy to protect our Arab peoples from the aggressive threats resulting from the increased U.S. military and political influence in the Arab region.

The PDRY Government believes that the escalation of military operations by the U.S. forces in Lebanon against the Lebanese and Syrian peoples is not separated from the overall fascist aggressive policy of the U.S. Administration, which in the not too distant past began to practice roughshod acts of invasion and aggression against independent states and struggling peoples alongside its policy aimed at undermining world peace, creating tension in the international situation, spreading the danger of a massive nuclear war — a thing which requires more decisiveness and alertness toward various features of the aggressive U.S. activities in the Arab region — and exerting efforts to preserve our Arab peoples' peace and stability by removing U.S. military bases in the Arab region and mobilizing Arab efforts to face the Zionist-imperialist challenges intended to return colonialism to Arab countries.

Supreme People's Council Presidium Meets

GF051806 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council held its seventh ordinary session today under Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The presidium reviewed the Arab and international situations and political developments and the PDRY stand on them. It also studied a memorandum on the implementation of the third year of the 5-year plan during the first 6 months of 1983 and a report on government accounts for the fiscal year 1981. It approved an agreement on economic and technical cooperation with the PRC to postpone the settlement of debts. It also approved a law to amend the registration law and the agreement to finance the project of [name indistinct].

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council approved the death sentence for Qahtan 'Abbud Naji, who was convicted of kidnapping young people according to Article 164 of the criminal law, blemishing their honor according to Article 167 of the criminal law, and premediated murder in a brutal way according to Article 129 of the criminal law.

The Presidium also approved the nomination of a number of ambassadors.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Views U.S. Raids on Syrian Positions

LD052212 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Hamzah Muhsin as-Saqqaf commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Defense Department has officially admitted that its Air Force yesterday raided Syrian artillery positions in the Lebanese heights and that the U.S. President approved and ordered the operation.

The American raid on Syrian positions in Mount Lebanon yesterday came as a surprise to political and military circles in Beirut and other Arab and world capitals. The surprise lies in the fact that the U.S. role in Lebanon has now crossed the dividing line between the defined task within the work of the Multinational Force and the character of the political and military confrontations between the various groups in Lebanon.

Many observers went further in their explanations of the incident than the justifications given by U.S. circles, which viewed it as a reaction to the Syrian air defense's interception the day before yesterday of a squadron of U.S. aircraft over Beirut. It can be said that there is some kind of consensus among observers on linking the American raid with the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, despite the fact that the execution steps of this agreement await the meeting of the joint military committee which may take place early next year, that is, 2 months from now.

Observers' conclusions are based on statements made by Israeli circles after the visit of the enemy prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, to Washington last week, statements which presented the results of the visit to the world as a serious strategic development in the U.S.-Israeli alliance in relation to the situation in the Middle East. The observer is inclined to such an explanation of the motives behind the American raid and its link with the results of Shamir's visit to Washington because of anxiety caused by the visit in Egypt, which hastened to dispatch a special envoy, Dr Butrus Ghali, to Washington to discover the truth about the matter.

Irrespective of the motives, causes, and justifications, the U.S. Administration's embarkation on this action — judging by political criteria — surpasses the essence of the American role in Lebanon and is an infringement of Washington's attitude and obligations toward the peace operation and of what is expected from it as a superpower in accordance with customary international law.

Radio Commentary on U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli Relations

LD032358 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Dec 83

[News and commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil ended a 3-day visit to the United States today during which he held talks with U.S. Administration officials which ended with promises of political support from Washington in whatever decisions might be made in the future, as his foreign minister stated. The American stance toward Lebanon is fundamentally linked with the Israeli stance and is considered one of the outcomes of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Washington's commitments to Lebanon include helping it to end that invasion and to implement the agreement signed in that respect. Therefore, American promises are part of that commitment because they are concurrent with similar promises received by the Israeli enemy during Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent visit to Washington.

The promises made to Lebanon remain merely a flexible position by which Washington is seeking to justify its role in Lebanon, a role that has become the strategic opening for an American role in the Middle East. The optimism expressed by the Lebanese foreign minister on the outcome of President al-Jumayyil's visit can be considered as the regenerated hope that trust in the American role will bring about the necessary credibility in the American position in its dealing with the Arab stance and in confronting the arrogant Israeli stance and challenges.

Regardless of the success of the credibility of the American position and the extent of Washington's fulfillment of its promises to the Lebanese president, the decisive factor on which Washington depends to achieve any progress in the Lebanon withdrawal agreement is the improvement that has occurred in the relations between Beirut and Damascus and the positive consequences expected as a result of this improvement, which will advance the Lebanese-Israeli-American agreement toward fulfillment. Despite the influence of Lebanese-Syrian relations pushing the situation in the Lebanese arena in the direction of the mutual interests of the two fraternal countries and in freeing Lebanon from the Israeli invasion, Lebanese-U.S. relations will remain a negative factor in the situation so long as Washington retains its position with the Israeli enemy. U.S. relations with the Israeli enemy constitute a destructive factor in its relations with the Arab world and consequently in its role in the Middle East in general.

UK Trade Secretary Leaves After Talks

LD060032 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 5, SPA — British Trade and Industry Secretary Normann Tebbit left here today finishing a week-end of talks with Saudi officials on emans of strengthening trade and economic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Britain as well as questions of mutual concern. Tebbit said his talks with Saudi leaders also covered prospects of his country's contribution in the kingdom's development plans. Speaking in a press conference held here last night, Tebbit said his deliberations with Saudi ministers of commerce, finance and national economy, and planning, Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl and Hisham Nazir as well as Saudi businessmen, were "useful and importance since" they have led to more, understanding on issues of mutual concern.

Referring to current negotiations between the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and some British firms on exporting Saudi industrial products to the British market, Tebbit said some obstacles are facing his country in this regard. However, Britain will try to find ways to help Saudi Arabia market its products to Europe, he said.

Tebbit added that Britain and Saudi Arabia realised they shared a common interest in keeping the oil market stable. Referring to OPEC's decision to keep fixed quota production and price, the British minister said his country, as the case with other oil producing states, particularly the kingdom, "is willing to keep a stable oil output and is worried of the impact of any overproduction on the international oil market."

He added that Britain "is interested in a growing Saudi economy since the two countries have their joint ventures".

Tebbit noted that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. "are leading the countries with which Britain has strong economic ties.

UAE

President Receives Saudi King's Message

GF051918 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, has received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia dealing with the latest Arab developments and issues of common interest. The message was conveyed by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, during his meeting with Shaykh Zayid here this evening.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier today within his current tour of a number of countries in the region, which has carried him to Oman and the UAE.

YAR

President Receives PDRY Chairman's Message

GF051928 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the general leadership today Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland, who delivered him a message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, on issues of coordination and consultation between the two parts and the steps taken by the leaderships of the two parts on the way to restore Yemeni unity, in addition to new developments on the Arab arena and international issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Husayn ad-Daf'i, the president's adviser for unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; and Lieutenant Colonel 'Atwah Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs and member of the Standing Committee.

Standing Committee Issues Final Statement

GF051030 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Final statement issued following fifth session of standing committee of the YAR General People's Congress held under 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress 3-4 December]

[Excerpt] During the period 3-4 December 1983, the standing committee of the General People's Congress held its fifth session at the capital, San'a', under the chairmanship of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The committee discussed a number of national, Arab, Islamic, and international issues.

At the beginning of the session, the committee heard a comprehensive report presented by the brother secretary general of the General People's Congress on the activities and work of the General People's Congress and all its organizations both in the domestic and foreign arenas. The report included a subjective assessment of all these activities and their positive outcome in support of our intelligent experience in political work through the General People's Congress and the course of the National Charter, which determines and elaborates the features and events of our country's policy. The committee dwelt at length at the report, especially what concerns the issues of political work in the Yemeni arena, the role of the General People's Congress, and concepts of the National Charter in light of our new life through the ideal implementation of all these concepts and principles.

Reviewing the general internal situation, the standing committee dwelt on the unity achievements by the two parts of the homeland and the future role required in this field. The committee stressed the necessity of implementing the results and decisions of the first session of the Yemeni council. The standing committee expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the agreement on the movement of citizens between the two parts of Yemen by means of the identity card. It said that all the joint unity efforts and the contacts and meetings and all kinds of cooperation and coordination between the two parts will provide a correct and progressive basis for the two parts to continue the unity march and will pave the way for all sincere citizens to contribute to reuniting the Yemeni homeland in the shadows of the instructions of the good Islamic law as a step toward achieving comprehensive Arab and Islamic unity.

The standing committee stressed the necessity of continuing, expanding, and deepening the serious unity efforts by the two parts in various fields in light of the unity agreements signed by the leaderships of the two parts and stressed the necessity of coordinating efforts to establish joint unity projects in order to achieve economic integration between the two parts.

Prime Minister Receives Cypriot Message

GF052010 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, received in his office today Khristos Mavrellis, communications and works minister and envoy of Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou, who delivered a written message from the Cypriot president addressed to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The meeting was attended by Ahmad al-'Anisi, minister of communications, land, and transport.

Cypriot Minister Leaves

GF052014 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Khristos Mavrellis, communications and works minister and envoy of Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou, left San'a' today following a short visit to the republic during which he delivered a written message from the Cypriot president to the brother leader and secretary general of the General People's Congress on the current situation in Cyprus. He was seen off by the communications, land, and transportation minister and an official of the protocol office of the Foreign Ministry.

Further on Visit of Niger President Kountche

Mubarak Speaks at Banquet

NC042055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 4 Dec 83

["Text" of speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at banquet in honor of Niger head of state Seyni Kountche in Cairo on 4 December]

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA) — Dear Brother President Seyni Kountche, Mrs President, and dear brothers:

Permit me to welcome you to the good land of Egypt as a guest of whose visit we are proud and as a friend whom we are happy to meet. We are linked with you by the great African friendship, which has rightly proved under all circumstances and at all times that we are partners in destiny and fate. We have been linked together by a common history throughout the centuries, a continuing struggle against subservience and backwardness, a constant quest for freedom and prosperity, and a common hope for a better future for our rising continent. Dialogue with brothers is something that pleases us and the exchange of views with friends is a tradition that we safeguard.

Our meeting with you in Egypt today emphasizes all the feelings that the Egyptian people harbor for the fraternal people of Niger, on whose land African culture interacted with Islamic culture, enabling the people to provide a distinguished mixture of human giving and to exercise an outstanding historical role, extending the bridges of contact among the states in the continent and joining the channels of human knowledge among its peoples.

We recall the struggle of the fraternal people of Niger along the path of national liberation and their stands to consolidate their independence and to preserve their regional unity. We praise the leadership of President Seyni Kountche and his prominent role in leading his country toward its national goals, as well as his contribution to the solution of the African problems and to the issues of world peace.

On the occasion of your visit, I want to stress our pride over the development and continued growth of the relations between our countries in the various economic, technical, cultural, and scientific fields. They reflect a common feeling of the importance of the link between Egypt and Niger. We look forward to the further consolidation of this link through more constructive cooperation that will serve the common goals of defending national independence, speeding up economic development, and emphasizing the national character of the two peoples through increasing cultural and information exchange.

In dealing with the African states, we feel that we are dealing with our brothers and we realize that African fraternity is our strong asset and permanent support. On this occasion, I would also like to record our appreciation of the stands of the people of Niger and their leadership on all the developments in our region. We also appreciate their support for the just Arab questions and for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, who suffered in the past and are still suffering. Their problem is the essence of the Middle East conflict and it must be the subject of full attention and continuous efforts by all the peace-loving forces, so as to support the Palestinian people in determining their future and establishing their national entity on their land. You might perhaps share my view that Israel must stop its illegal practices in the West Bank and Gaza sector, particularly the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territory, as well as other illegal measures that led to the Palestinian people being deprived of rights that all other nations and peoples enjoy.

On the other hand, the Israeli occupation of Lebanon must be ended and all its vestiges must be eliminated. The legitimate authority must be enabled to exercise sovereignty over every inch of its land without the foreign interference which has demolished the Lebanese people's security, prosperity, and stability, and which has exposed them to division and fragmentation. The bloody incidents in this friendly country have reached a tragic level threatening the region's security and constituting an obstacle on the road of peace. As an African and Muslim country that plays a role in the Nonaligned Movement, you will agree with me that the continuation of the war between the neighboring countries belonging to the group of the developing Third World states and having common historical ties — Iran and Iraq — is a matter causing concern and encompassing the most dangerous consequences of a continuous and ceaseless war, which has entered its 4th year. While praising the efforts exerted to end this war and the initiatives submitted by one of the two sides to stop it, we demand the halting of the military operations between Iraq and Iran and resorting to negotiations to solve their outstanding problems.

We further stress at this meeting our solidarity with the fraternal people of Chad and our eagerness to preserve their stability and unity to confront the dangers of the foreign interference threatening their independence and territorial integrity. We emphasize our commitment to the principles of the OAU, which has completed its 20th year in the service of the issues of national liberation and of the solidarity of the continent's peoples. These principles provide for respecting the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the continent.

As you can see, our brothers in the southern part of the African Continent are waging a valiant struggle against the racist forces, which continue to adopt colonialist methods overtaken by the spirit of the age. The will of the peoples of our struggling continent has triumphed against these forces. We condemn the aggression against the African people of Namibia and demand the termination of the domination by the racist minority of the destiny of the people, the owners of the land. We will continue to condemn these racist and colonialist methods until the independence of the continent is completed and the will of all its people is liberated.

Brothers and friends, the history of our continent always asserts that Africa's security is indivisible, that its independence and the freedom of all its peoples are common goals, and that the stability of its states is a vital prerequisite for providing the atmosphere conducive to development and progress. Egypt, which has recently occupied one of the non-permanent seats at the Security Council as a result of a magnificent African nomination, places its national effort and political expertise in the service of its brothers and of the just causes of the peoples, as well as of peace for all mankind. Permit me, brothers, to invite you to stand in tribute to dear Brother President Seyni Kountche, his wife, his accompanying delegation, and the dear guests of Egypt; in tribute to all the sons of fraternal Niger; and in tribute to the African fraternity, which joins together the Republic of Niger and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Kountche Visits Ismailia

AB051715 Paris AFP in French 1427 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (AFP) — Niger's President Seyni Kountche spent the day before his departure in Ismailia, the second largest city on the Suez Canal, by visiting the international waterway's automatic navigation control post. President Kountche, who leaves Cairo early Tuesday afternoon, was accompanied during this visit by Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, president of the canal's administrative body, who discussed with him Egyptian projects concerning the development of the waterway. During a dinner given in his honor on Sunday by President Mubarak, President Kountche stressed the "similarity of views" between Egypt and Niger mainly on the Chadian, Western Sahara, and Lebanese problems. He said that he was for "a new impetus" to strengthen bilateral relations between Egypt and Niger and also stressed that the two countries are "linked both by their African and Islamic traditions."

On his part, President Mubarak asserted that Africa's "security was indivisible." He added that Egypt "will work for just African causes" at the UN Security Council where it has just been elected as a temporary member. He asserted that African brotherhood enjoys Egypt's permanent support "which seeks its solid achievement."

Niger To Sell Uranium

AB052040 Paris AFP in French 1529 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (AFP) — On Tuesday Egypt and Niger will sign a nuclear cooperation agreement, it was learned on Monday afternoon from Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources. By this agreement, Egypt will buy uranium from Niger for its program aimed at setting up 8 nuclear stations by the year 2000 to supply 40 percent of its electricity needs. The two countries signed a protocol agreement to this effect in April 1983. The volume and mode of the transaction were not fixed. The two countries will in addition sign an agreement for the setting up of a joint commission for cooperation, the same sources further stated. Niger President Seyni Kountche is on official visit to Egypt since last Saturday. He is scheduled to leave Cairo on Tuesday.

Sudanese Interior Minister Visits Cairo

NC041757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 4 Dec (MENA) — Sudanese Minister of Internal Affairs Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman left Cairo today for Baghdad following a 1-day visit. Before his departure, he said he came to Cairo before going to Baghdad to attend the Arab interior ministers meeting so he could consult with Major General Hasan Abu Basha on security matters of interest to both countries, and also to acquaint himself with the progress in training programs between Egypt and Sudan. He further said he briefed Abu Basha on the circumstances of the recent plot against southern Sudan directed by Libya. He said he discussed with Abu Basha the new Islamic legislation in Sudan, which was issued in the form of various laws.

'Ali Receives SFRY Ambassador Lazar Zivulj

LD052109 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1902 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (TANJUG) — Kamal ad-Din Hasan 'Ali, Egypt's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, today received Yugoslav Ambassador in Egypt Lazar Zivulj. During their lengthy talk they discussed the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel, and the latest events in Lebanon. The two sides expressed concern about the possible consequences of the latest events in Lebanon. The Egyptian foreign minister reiterated Cairo's official stand as presented by President Mubarak 2 days ago, that the strategic agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv could disrupt the balance in the Middle East and be a great obstacle to the peace process in the region.

Muhyi ad-Din Delivers Policy Statement

NC031304 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0955 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Address delivered by Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din on government policy to the People's Assembly in Cairo — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Speaker, members: On 6 November 1982, the government submitted a statement to your distinguished assembly in which it detailed its achievements and defined the main features of the progress to which we aspire in our constant endeavor to build a great Egypt and lay the sound foundations for our renaissance. We have only sweat and work as the method for construction and a true indicator of progress. It is also no longer possible for us to rely on past achievements or to let them be a substitute for the steady movement toward the future. We must offer from our resources all that the human effort can achieve with willpower and creativity. We must combine the power of faith with our national objectives and with our ability to create the best ways to achieve them. We must strengthen our affiliation to the homeland with a spirit of sacrifice and devotion so that we may weather the dangers with unbending determination.

All of this is neither a hope that we can bypass or ignore, nor an indulgence in wishful thinking. It is a firm mark on a very complicated road, the circumstances of which are numerous and our paths to which are diversified. We cannot reach the end of this road without steady and unfaltering steps and without calm souls which believe in God almighty and in our nation's nobility and responsibility toward the coming generations. This undoubtedly has been our motive for adopting the 5-year plan as a method of action through which we objectively deal with our problems after categorizing them in order to define their priorities and ensure unison in their solutions. The edifice we are building must be complete; its pillars must support each other.

Our ambitious plans must move from the stage of theory to the stage of implementation. There must be control over the straightforwardness of the executive organs so that we may achieve the aims behind the plan. The plan's objectives, sources of financing, and means of implementation represent a scientific course to which there is no alternative if we really want to achieve progress according to scientific standards and not by auctioneering and beautiful words.

The will for national action cannot be resurrected or promoted without preparing the suitable conditions for it, foremost of which is the consolidation of democracy. President Husni Mubarak has affirmed democracy's inevitability for building progress. This was contained in the important speech he delivered to the joint meeting of the People's Assembly and Consultative Assembly. We believe with you that democracy is a constant dialogue and an open window for all the citizens — a dialogue with constructive words and clear insight, a dialogue in an atmosphere of concord and not discord, a dialogue by persuasion and not by diktat, a dialogue in which all views interact, a dialogue with those who are looking for the welfare of their nation, a dialogue that illuminates the road and does not prevent or obstruct progress, a dialogue free and open to every citizen who adheres to the supreme interest and its controls.

This is our method of work. We affirm that democracy is our course and that we will never depart from it. There is no doubt that the democracy we believe in can only prosper under freedom. On our part, we will endeavor to guarantee it in all its aspects and forms. It is a landmark under the era of President Husni Mubarak through which we will uphold the principles declared in the Constitution regarding the right of every person to express and publish his views. The true contents of freedom reject all restrictions contradicting its nature. We deeply believe that freedom alone can explode man's creative energy, develop his capabilities, and provide suitable conditions for an objective dialogue among the various trends of the national force.

The president has rightly emphasized that the homeland needs all its sons regardless of their political beliefs, their ideological trends, or their social standing. This cannot be achieved without real freedom through which man proceeds to new horizons in order to form the destiny and future of this homeland within the framework of equality. There is no discrimination between supporters and opposition, or between one group and another. We are all partners in this homeland to which we are affiliated in loyalty and bound in destiny.

We are required to make this session of your honorable assembly a great example in the debate procedure, a great example in objective handling, and in balancing all views in order to obtain the most appropriate view for achieving the public interest. We should also provide an example of maintaining constructive consultation in order to keep national action along a sound course. We should provide an example of raising national interest to a higher level so that the final word will be for justice. Let this homeland, as we all hope, be a haven for the free masses who are hoping for and aspiring to a better future.

Mr Speaker, members of the assembly, the democracy which we have chosen for our course makes it incumbent upon us to coexist with the masses in their problems and aspirations. It is incumbent upon us to feel their pulses and interact with them, to work tirelessly in order to confront the pressures facing them, and to eliminate all the obstacles that waste their energy and fragment their power. It is incumbent upon us to be faithful to the masses by telling them the truth, by giving them the facts, by informing them of our domestic and foreign difficulties, by addressing them with confidence, and by inviting them to make sacrifices for the sake of public causes. It is also incumbent upon us to provide an example through true determination, to urge the masses to persist in maintaining accurate work, and to return to the foundations of affiliation to this homeland. It is incumbent upon us to create with the masses a living conscience for this nation and for its true will, to work with them, through them, and for them so that justice will be the torch guiding us, so that loyalty to the homeland will be our program, and so that commitment to legitimacy will be our objective and goal.

Mr speaker, members. The government is following up the developments of the Palestinian issue. The whole world appreciates the great efforts and sacrifices Egypt has made in defense of the Palestinian people and in stressing their right to determine their future and establish their entity on their national soil. Egypt has upheld and will continue to uphold this view and creed. In every international arena, Egypt has affirmed and will continue to affirm the inevitability of exerting intensive and active endeavors in order to establish this right and achieve a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the area. Egypt has chosen the path of peace; a peace based on justice. Therefore, we have always emphasized to Israel that its practices against the Palestinian people and its continued settlement policy in the occupied land breach its international committments and contravene the responsibilities to which it commited itself.

The conflict and civil war we are witnessing in Lebanon reflect international and regional interests rather than local sectarian interests. The conflict and civil war in Lebanon serve neither the Palestinian issue nor the Lebanese people, but negatively affect the possibilities of settling the problems and place obstacles on the peace march that we and the whole world desire for our region. We have always asserted that completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the achievement of a national reconciliation among its various sects are two basic conditions for achieving Lebanon's independence, freedom, and sovereignty over its territory. They are also (?indicators) for creating the favorable conditions to tackle the Palestinian issue — the crux of the conflict — and to find a comprehensive solution once and for all.

The unity of the Palestinian people in their struggle, the PLO independence — the Palestinians' legitimate organ — and preservation of the freedom of Palestinian decisionmaking will always remain Egypt's main goal. Whatever the differences within the PLO, they must be tackled through a democratic dialogue, discussions, and exchange of views and not through an exchange of fire. This will return to the PLO its unity and cohesion. All other forces must keep their hands off the PLO.

We demand that Israel take prompt measures to build confidence and encourage the peace process by withdrawing from Lebanon according to a timetable, freezing the establishment of settlements, and stopping its arbitrary measures in the occupied territory. Contacts are still underway regarding the Tabah problem. Israel must fulfill its committments in accordance with the articles of the treaty it has signed. Arab Egypt is concerned about the unity of the Arab ranks and about healing the rift. Egypt calls on all Arab countries to act as one hand, to unify their stand, to abandon their differences, and to pool their forces at this fateful and historic stage. Egypt is consulting with certain Arab countries. Regardless of the absence of official relations, we are concerned to complete the dialogue, unify the goals, and bring our courses closer together, because we believe in the unity of our fate.

Great efforts have been exerted to settle the Iran-Iraq war, which has continued for 4 years and which has destroyed the economies of both countries. Despite the fact that Iraq has more than once shown its readiness to accept dialogue on the principles submitted by the parties mediating between both countries, Iran has, to date, not responded to any of these efforts. We urge both countries to start a genuine peaceful phase to preserve the blood of both Islamic peoples.

To consolidate the natural and historic bonds between the two peoples of the Nile valley, the integration charter was signed last year and its establishments were formed. The Higher Integration Council convened two meetings. In addition, the Nile Valley parliament convened, and so did the integration technical committees, which issued specific recommendations that will draft the steps of integration in the forthcoming stage and remove customs and administrative barriers which hinder travel and prevent the flow of commodities, as well as lay foundations of unison between the sons of both countries. In addition, the integration rules and fund bylaws were issued, which are intended to study projects that benefit both Egypt and Sudan and develop their economies. Both countries deposited their shares in the fund in preparation for starting the actual activities.

The integration fund has initiated contacts with international and regional organizations and certain countries to obtain financing for the projects it is implementing. Thus, the integration between the sons of the Nile valley has turned into a reality that embodies the aspirations of both peoples.

Mr Speaker, members of the assembly, we have been pioneers in the Nonaligned Movement since its inception. Egypt has played a major role in the movement for many years. We refuse to enter into alliances and blocs which are inconsistent with the movement's principles. We believe that this movement serves and deepens world peace and friendly relations among its peoples.

Meanwhile, Egypt has been eager to promote its relations with the African states, the positive stances of which have had a great effect in the acceptance of Egypt as a member of the UN Security Council. We are confident that you will support our stance regarding the questions of racial discrimination on this continent and that you will condemn the stance of South Africa regarding the independence of Namibia. Egypt has effectively contributed to the efforts aimed at safeguarding OAU unity and protecting it against the dangers threatening it due to the Chadian and Western Saharan problems. Our stand has been clear in demanding that all African problems should be solved through a spirit of understanding and a desire for establishing peace. Mr Speaker, members of the assembly, our relations with the United States are multifaceted. The successful bilateral cooperation includes many aspects, the most prominent of which is the economic, trade, and cultural cooperation which yields benefits to both sides. However, we would like to say that the strategic cooperation which was recently concluded between the United States and Israel might constitute new obstacles in the way of achieving peace — a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace which we are seeking to consecrate. This cooperation might also be one of the factors that increases the reasons for polarization in the area. The United States is called upon now more than at any previous time to speed up a solution of basic problems from which the Middle East is suffering, including the Palestinian people's problem and their right to self-determination, as well as Lebanon's problem and its territorial sovereignty. The government will discuss this cooperation and its dimensions with the United States in order to clarify all its aspects.

Your government is giving utmost interest to Egypt's relations with West European states. President Husni Mubarak paid successful visits to promote relations of cooperation and to achieve further mutual understanding regarding questions of joint interest between Egypt, Britain, France, Italy, the FRG, and Austria, while inviting them to assume an active role in the interest of the peace process backed by practical actions contributing to its establishment.

Our relations with Asian states have witnessed a positive development in affirmation of the policy of solidarity with the peoples of the Third World and the nonaligned states. The government is further promoting its relations with Latin American countries which are contributing to the peace question in the Middle East.

Mr Speaker, members, in this era, international relations are interlinked, particularly in the Middle East where violence and bloodshed are one of the characteristics. This is furthered by forces seeking regional ambitions by carrying out invasions, usurping territory, and imposing the policy of force, domination, and dictating. In such an era, Egypt cannot secure its sublime interests without building a strong national Army which is a necessity of life and a demand that cannot be given up. We cannot show reluctance in achieving a strong national army. International relations are governed by an accurate balance which adjusts their moves and defines their trends. In defending our national interests, we can only rely upon ourselves. Our moves toward establishing international relations must parallel our political and economic weight and must be fully backed by armed power. Our Armed Forces have always proved that they are worthy of our trust, capable of defending the homeland, particularly its security stability and safety thus paving the way for solving our social and economic problems. [applause] The Armed Forces' efforts to promote economic development and to provide prosperity for the people cannot be denied, particularly in the area of the armed forces' civil service branch's contribution to fulfilling many basic requirements in the foodstuff, sanitary drainage, roads construction, and telecommunications domains, as well as in the area of the citizens' vocational training. Mr Speaker, members, you know that the internal security issues have extreme importance to ensure stability and reassurance for every citizen. The government concentrates on promoting the security efforts according to a multifaceted and integrated plan, which is being implemented within the context of adherence to the legitimacy and supremacy of the law in order to prepare favorable conditions and a suitable atmosphere for continuing the efforts toward overall development. The results of this plan has proven to be clearly positive in confronting all trends of terrorist activities that contravene the legitimate government. It has also been possible to cooperate with religious and information establishments and leaderships in confronting religious extremism through dialogue aimed at laying the foundations for sound religious concepts. In the meantime, the security monitoring organs have succeeded in circumventing foreign attempts aimed at harming domestic stability. In addition, the government is concerned with combating crime through scientific methods. The rate of capital crimes in various areas is steadily decreasing. Statistics indicate increasing efforts in combating economic crimes such as smuggling, tax evasion, and the exploitation of the masses' staples.

The government is acting to improve performance in the various service posts and is developing manpower by providing training, facilities, and care. The government is paying attention to opening the channels of communication with the citizens, watching the masses' psychological emvironment, and following up the problems that affect them. We have always affirmed that the supremacy of the law cannot be relinquished or treated leniently. The stability and immunity of the judiciary are basic guarantees that affirm the supremacy of the law among all citizens. Thus, the government is concerned and is determined to have judiciary verdicts fully respected. Judiciary verdicts must be the symbol of unquestionable truth. This position demonstrates the government's belief and full conviction of the independence of the judiciary authority, which is ensured by developed legislation [words indistinct] intended for the further protection of the citizens' rights and freedom. The government is very concerned to see that immunity is provided to the judiciary in its capacity as the symbol of justice. The government also ensures for every citizen the right to resort to the judiciary. It is acting to bring the judiciary bodies closer to the people seeking court action. The government apportions the necessary annual funds to establish and develop courts, acts to raise the standard of performance, and simplify measures connected with the masses' dealing with [words indistinct]. The government provides the necessary funds for the Justice Ministry's budget to establish the judiciary information bank in order to provide sufficient scientific data to help judges in their work and enable them to achieve justice without delay.

Mr Speaker, members, the economic issue has occupied its rightful place at the top of the issues that concern his excellency the president and the NDP. Anyone who follows the steps of the economic reform that the NDP government took over the past 2 years, particularly the steps taken in the past year — the 1st year of the 5-year development plan — will realize, if he is fair, that a great dea has been achievedin the economic sphere. He will realize that the Egyptian economy has been placed on a sound path, and that it has been prepared for a new strong and objective march. Many issues were decisively settled in the past 2 years, issues over which differences and argument were raised. These issues were decisively settled in keeping with the society's goal for development and just distribution. The question of economic openness has been resolved. We have decided that this openness should continue to assume its productive course. This undoubtedly should include the investment and social aspects of all economic policies. We have also completed the stage of study and dissussions on the real, vital problems facing the Egyptian economy. Based on its studies and research, the government has begun to implement all proposals submitted to resolve the problems on an objective and scientific basis. Furthermore, the question of planning and its importance has been resolved. It has been decided to use it as a scientific method to achieve society's objectives.

Your respected assembly has approved the 5-year 1982-87 plan and has put an end to the dispute over the relationship between the public and private sectors. We should not forget the importance of the two sectors and should necessarily encourage and develop them in an effective manner to serve society's objectives by promoting the rates of investment and development. There is no doubt that resolving the differences on these topics has contributed toward creating a better atmosphere for work and has generated capabilities to establish facts and to define priorities on a sound basis. All of this has enabled the government to employ every means to implement the 5-year plan. This plan was implemented 1 and 1/2 years ago. I am very pleased to cite some facts that express the extent of the efforts the government exerted in this period and of the important results that have been achieved thus far:

1. The government has scored an increase of 7.5 percent in the gross national product [GNP]. This is a relatively large increase if compared with the increases in the majority of other countries in the world. This increase has been achieved as a result of the allotment made available by public and private investment. This allotment exceeds 25 percent of the GNP. The Egyptian economy has indeed developed tremendously over the past 3 years. However, this year's achievement has been attained despite the reduction in foreign currency due to the reduction of oil output. This, which is unprecedented in the history of the open-door policy, has been prompted by the reduction in world prices following the increase in oil production. It has also been observed that the structure of development has changed in favor of the productive sectors, particularly the industrial and agricultural sectors.

2. The deficit in the balance of payments has been diminished from 2.064 billion pounds in 1981-82 to 1.81 billion pounds in the last year. In other words, the deficit has been reduced to about 52 percent in 1981-82.

3. The rate of increase in oil reserves has been reduced from 44.3 percent to 26.3 percent. This reduction affected the government's net liabilities [words indistinct]. The net deficit of [words indistinct] has also been reduced from 2.601 billion pounds in 1981-82 to 1.375 billion pounds in 1982-83. This confirms a major reduction in the accumulated inflationary pressures affecting economy.

4. The development rates in the agricultural and industrial sectors have overshadowed those of last year. This is poignantly evident in the loan figures granted by the banking sector to the private industrial and agricultural sectors. Loan facilities have increased within the various sectors in June-July 1982-1983 by

2.529 billion pounds, namely, an increase of 26 percent. The assets granted to the agricultural and industrial sectors have been increased by 1.049 billion pounds, an increase of 32 percent. However, the assets given to the commercial sector have only increased by 395 million pounds, an increase of 10 percent. These figures show the continuing expansion in the various sectors, including the commercial sector. The industrial and agricultural sectors enjoyed an above average rate in development, while the commercial sector had a below average rate of development. Investment rate in the private sector during 1982-83 has reached 1.1 billion pounds at the rate of 81 percent of the targeted plan. This figure includes 538 million pounds in the housing sector, 216 million pounds in the industrial sector, and 171 million pounds in the agricultural and agrarian reform sector. Furthermore, the volume of imports, without the transfer of currency by the private sector, has been increased from 850 million pounds in 1981-82 to more than 1.2 billion pounds in 1982-83. This increase was attained when the structure of imports was changed in favor of investment commodities and not consumer goods. This confirms the prosperity enjoyed by the private sector toward serving the economic and social development.

5. Remittances sent by the Egyptians working abroad has been increased from 1.45 billion pounds in 1981-82 to 2.15 billion pounds in 1982-83, an increase of 700 million pounds in 1 year. This shows that confidence in the Egyptian economy has been increased.

6. There were 347,000 new job opportunities in 1982-83 distributed among the various economic sectors. The industrial sector had about 125,000 job opportunities, namely, 36 percent of the job opportunities in the various service sectors.

7. Many measures have been taken to encourage exports because of the special importance exports represent. These measures include granting exporters several incentives, foremost of which is recognizing the right of the exporter to keep the revenue from his exports, setting up numerous establishments to ensure the facilitation of exporting, and providing financial resources by establishing a bank as well as a higher ministerial committee and export center for promoting exports. Moreover, a number of decisions have been made to remove the administrative obstacles which impede expansion in exporting.

Mr Speaker, members, the government is well aware that last year's success in the economic sphere must be an incentive for more work to safeguard the hopes that have been attained and to underline the resolve to move forward for the sake of a strong national economy which depends on the individual and meets the basic needs of the masses. The government is also aware that the path is hard and long and that there are still several challenges which must be confronted this year and in the future. Foremost of these challenges is the rise in consumption levels, for example, especially the consumption of energy and cereals. Another challenge is the deficit in the public budget, which even if it improves, is still relatively great. Furthermore, the government also realizes that economic reform is based on important political and social dimensions which must not under any circumstances be ignored. The government realizes that a balance must be found between the requirements of economic reform and those of political and social goals.

The general public budget and the 2d year plan, which was approved by your honorable assembly last June, have defined the bases and the details of the government economic policies. These may be summarized as follows:

1. Regarding the priorities of planning, the government is eager for the current year's plan to reflect the priorities which his excellency the president had announced:

A. Underlining the social dimensions of the economic policies by providing the main services such as water, sewage, education, health, housing, and electricity in addition to assiduously implementing the policies which contribute toward realizing further justice in the distribution of revenues and foremost the establishment of a proficient and fair tax system.

B. Underlining the principle of self-help, particularly in the area of producing basic food commodities and those industrial commodities in the production of which we enjoy relative advantage, as well as continuing to achieve and promote high levels of investment.

C. Encouraging investments in a manner that will achieve further changes in the national economic structure and its growth rates in favor of the productive sectors, particularly the agricultural and industrial sectors. It is in light of these priorities that the plan and the public budget were designed to reflect the government's eagerness to transcribe these priorities into reality and to the benefit of the people.

2. Regarding the area of financial policies, the government's main aim continues to be constant work to reduce the deficit in the public budget in order to reach the goals of the 5-year plan. There is no doubt that this requires great efforts on various fronts in order to increase revenues and rationalize the general expenditure. In order to achieve this goal, the government has been eager to reduce the net deficit by about 200 million pounds. The government is eager [words indistinct] during the year will be compatible with the expectations of the public budget. Moreover, the government has been eager to establish [word indistinct] revenues this year through increasing the efficiency of [word indistinct] and collection without resorting to imposing new taxes and fees except within narrow limits and on luxury goods. On the other hand, the government has continued its policy of rationalizing the general expenditure in order to limit those needs that are not urgent and not necessary. The government has also resolved that subsidies should reach those who deserve them in a manner that avoids [word indistinct] and squandering of public funds.

Perhaps the most important characteristic of the government's accomplishments in this field is that the reduction of the deficit in the general budget takes place without sacrificing the basic goals of the society. The wages of workers in the government, organizations, and economic establishment have been increased by 355 million pounds in the form of periodical allowances, incentives, and awards. The general budget also managed to pay off some local and foreign debts, achieved social justice by providing support to people with limited income, and provided the requirements for the armed and security forces and the various production and services ministries. Moreover, the government is continuing its policy to rectify the financing for the public sector's companies. The Finance Ministry has been asked to study the companies' situation in cooperation and coordination with new public establishments in order to resolve the existing problems, to settle the accumulated debts of some public sector's units, and to provide them with the necessary liquidity to enable them to achieve the plan's goal with complete efficiency.

In the currency and credit policy field: The government's currency and credit policy this year is based substantially the same as last year. The government's policy continues to seek a reduction in the volume of payments to ease the inflationary pressures by giving priority to commodity sectors in agriculture and industry in addition to the energy and construction sectors. The government is eager to define the rate of interest for local currency at a level above the rate of interest for foreign currency. The government will also choose the means of borrowing according to the purpose for which a loan is sought to ensure the appropriate encouragement to industrial and agricultural sectors in accordance with the principal objectives of the plan. The government will implement its currency policy in an effective way ensuring the stability of the banking system and the continued policy of strengthening the Central Bank's control, expanding its services and control to raise the efficiency of the sector as a whole, and of achieving equality among its various units. For this purpose, the government proposes to present to your assembly this year a bill that will strengthen the Central Bank's authority, bring about the banking sector's prosperity, and achieve the aspired goals. In implementing the government's policy to promote the establishment of the banking sector in various countries, a branch of the Al-Ahli Bank was opened this year in the United Kingdom, and other branches are to be opened in Khartoum, Paris, and in the United States. The Central Bank has drawn up an integrated plan for establishing our banks in various countries in the world. To strengthen the contribution of the banking system in financing investments, some credit regulations have been amended this year that enable the banks to expand and grant credits for this purpose.

In international economic relations, the government's persistent endeavor to reduce the deficit in the balance of payments and the success achieved during last year is reason to continue with the plan in this field to achieve further improvement. There is no doubt that the main source of the deficit in the balance of payments is due to the deficit in the balance of trade. The volume of our imports is over double the volume of our exports, including oil. Subsequently, the policy of encouraging exports and moderating imports [words indistinct] once again as a logical and inevitable result of the reality of our foreign trade. The government is seeking by every means to reap the fruits of the measures adopted, the establishments set up, and the incentives offered to encourage exports. The government's efforts also extend to include questions of production for export and the questions of currency, shipping, packing, and other export services. Those monitoring exports over the last 6 months from April to September will notice the increase in exports, compared with the same period in last year, be they agricultural or industrial exports, by an average of 7 to 25 percent according to the type of commodity. New commodities have been included in exports, mainly fertilizers. The government seeks to design an imports policy to make the best use of available foreign currency. The government realizes the importance of meeting the needs of development in general and the needs of the masses for basic consumer commodities.

Subsequently, the government is eager to ensure that this policy will not contradict with the need for providing these requirements in a manner that will ensure the elimination of all bureaucratic and routine obstacles facing import activity. The government will hold consultations with the chambers of commerce, the industries association, the businessmen's associations, and the various organizations concerned with developing rationalized commodities lists and imports lists in accordance with the above-mentioned goals. The government's efforts are not confined to improving the balance of payments and the balance of trade but extend to the balance of invisible transactions and the balance of capital transactions. These efforts are manifested in the following:

1. Adopting all necessary measures to increase the bank deposits of Egyptians residing abroad. These savings increased in the first quarter of this fiscal year — July-September 1983 — to about 315 million pounds, or 36 percent of the annual estimate.

2. Encouraging tourism and ensuring the receipt of revenues from tourism through the banks and the legitimate channels and trying to increase the revenue from the Suez Canal without conflicting with the desire to encourage international navigation.

3. Government activity through the ministries concerned to increase the capital transfers of loans and grants on soft terms in a manner consistent with our capabilities to maintain exports, to secure foreign currency revenues, and to use these loans and grants in the best way possible.

5. [Number as heard] In the sphere of investment policy, the government is continuing its intensive efforts to encourage local, Arab, and foreign private investments through the regulatory laws, the most important of which are Law 43 on Arab and foreign investments and Law 159 of 1981.

The government's policy is focusing at present on the following matters:

1. Encouraging and directing these investments in a manner that serves the government's aims in transferring sophisticated technology, in creating new horizons for exports, and in granting all necessary facilities to achieve this.

2. Continuing to study and evaluate the needs of investors and the obstacles standing in their way so as to remove them.

3. Directing the monetary, financial, and credit policies in a manner that serves and encourages these investments, particularly those in the production sectors, such as industry, agriculture, and (?exports).

Mr Speaker, honorable members, the government has paid attention to the reorganization of the public sector in its capacity as the basic pillar of the Egyptian economy. Law 97 of 1983, which your honorable assembly approved, was issued to strengthen and develop the public sector. The law stipulated the establishment of public sector organizations which — each in the sphere of its activity and through the companies they oversee — are designed to contribute toward the achievement of greater effectiveness by the public sector and toward the implementation of the objectives of the state's plan and policy. The minister concerned, through these organizations, follows up the implementation of these policies and plans. This new system represents an important development in the effort to promote the public sector. The public sector organizations established by Law 97 of 1983 do not interfere in the executive operations of the companies they supervise and do not impose controls that would limit their progress. Instead, they assist them in assuming their responsibilities and lay down criteria for assisting them based on the extent of the company's achievement of the desired objectives of the state's general plan. Consequently, the reward will be commensurate with the responsibility. We must note on this occasion that the establishment of the public sector organizations is about to be completed. The government assures you that it has begun taking practical steps to repair the (?financial) structure of the public sector companies and to provide their foreign exchange needs by encouraging them to export and to keep the income from their exports, as well as by providing the necessary investments to meet the needs for repairs, refurbishments, modernization, and expansion.

Mr Speaker, honorable members, some light must be shed on the activities of the ministries in the past year and on some of the activities anticipated in the new fiscal year. It is really difficult for the government to deal with all these activities, because this would be difficult and would take a long time. However, the government will outline some basic facts and some of the most important activities of the ministries, such as the size or type of work and the basic figures.This does not necessarily dispense with the need for every ministry to comprehensively study its accomplishments and steps for the next year.

As for the petroleum sector, total crude oil production increased by 34 million tons in the past year, representing a 6 percent increase over the previous year. Natural gas production increased by 2.6 million tons, representing an 11 percent increase. [Words indistinct] has been increased by 17 million tons, representing a 17 percent increase over the previous year. Nine natural gas discoveries were made last year. The indirect subsidy for local oil products is 2 billion pounds, or $2.972 billion. This is the difference between the local and international prices in terms of the oil sector only. This is an indirect subsidy. In other words, the state subsidizes oil prices to the tune of $2.972 billion. This is a tremendous indirect subsidy. Nevertheless, the balance of payments [word indistinct] by $2.27 billion and all this was added to the state's budget.

In the electricity sector, new thermal capabilities were added in 1983 equalling 1000 megawatts. This means a nuclear power plant. [Passage indistinct] It is as if a nuclear power plant had been added to our existing thermal capabilities. This increases the total operating units by 25 percent in 1 year. The development rate in the electricity sector is 11.6 percent. [Words indistinct] by a power of 500,000 volts and 220,000 volts from Aswan up to Alexandria in the most modern electronic centers operated by the biggest (?electrical) units in the world. This is unprecedented in Egypt's history. As has been reported, the envelopes containing tenders for constructing nuclear power plants in Egypt were opened on 26 November, the day Egypt entered the nuclear era. We will remember this date. the offers are genuine and will be awarded to the best tender. [applause] It is expected that in the year 2000, God willing, 40 percent of the electrical power will come from nuclear energy. In other words, 40 percent of Egypt's energy will be nuclear. This process will begin in 1990-91 and will reach 40 percent in the year 2000.

In the industry sector, this sector has revived industries that had almost become obsolete. The credit for this goes to the government's plan, which aims at reviving and developing anything pertaining to the industrial sector. The total investment in the industrial sector in 1982-83, the 1st year of the plan, [words indistinct] amount to 440 million pounds [words indistinct]. [applause] The private industrial sector has implemented 75 percent of its investment plans. This is equal to 216 million pounds. We are giving this sector all facilities to enable it to achieve its objectives and to supplement the public sector. The (?food) industries achieved the highest development rate in the 1st year of the plan, 13 percent, representing a 4 percent increase over the previous year.

In the war production sector, the production in local prices, without going into details, amounted to 467 million pounds, 18 percent above target, which is a 25 percent increase over the 1981-82 production. The civilian sector output increased threefold in one year. [applause] There is also the special line that manufactures ammunition for small, medium, and heavy arms, as well as [word indistinct] rockets. There is also a project for manufacturing artillery pieces and other things that should not be mentioned in a public meeting. [Words indistinct].

In the agricultural domain, [words indistinct] of Japanese rice. We have this year about 50,000 feddans of Philippine rice. We developed some rice fields to face the (?needs).Various grades of wheat are being produced. In agriculture, we are concentrating on increasing the output of maize, rice, and wheat. There are new grains which produce 100 percent, 25 percent, or 50 percent more than what we used to produce. When, God willing, this covers all the areas, we will be able to meet all our needs of grains — which are very large, as we mentioned. There is a continuing increase in our consumption of grains and energy. These two are considered the main problems facing Egypt.

In the field of irrigation, there are 350,000 feddans under drainage irrigation. The Ismailia Canal irrigates (?275,000) feddan; As-Salam irrigates 600,000 feddan; the Jonglei Canal project is under way. There are some difficulties, but we shall finance and complete this important Egyptian-Sudanese project. We shall require some financing but, God willing, we shall complete this financing and this canal project. This canal will provide 4 billion cubic meters of water. Is that so Mr Minister? Four billion cubic meters. The contamination of the Nile water is the responsibility of the Irrigation Ministry. The ministry and the government as a whole are working to make the Nile River clean and uncontaminated and to prevent dirt from being dumped into it. Of course, a study has been done on this subject. Financing is required in order to deal with the industries and projects that dump their waste directly into the Nile River without treatment.

With regard to roads, some 600 km of roads were built and paved last year. I am afraid to say village roads lest I hear... [laughter] [sentence not completed] Work on village roads is continuing, God willing. The service on [name indistinct]-Hulwan line has increased. Work is continuing on the two lane highway between Damietta and Al-Mansurah. Studies have been made of the [words indistinct] road west of the Nile to Asyut. Some 600 km of roads that link villages have been built. This is in addition to 1,500 km under construction. [applause] It is hoped that the new line between Qina and Safajah will end before the end of 1984. As I said, I am only mentioning things in brief. I am sorry, this is voluminous work. A line between Egypt and Greece has been established, providing multiline communications with the outside world. One of the deputies told me a few days ago that it seems that contact between Cairo and some European capitals has become better than contact between Cairo and Alexandria. I told him: Never mind, soon communication with Alexandria or Tanta will improve. This is natural.

In the field of maritime transport, we have added ships to our fleet in order to ship our goods. However, we still depend on others in this field. We carry about 10 percent of our goods, but we have been buying new ships and have had ships built for us. In the field of supply, flour mills have been built and developed to increase the daily capacity to 1,100 tons. With regard to bakeries, 110 have been added. In the field of silos, the Cairo and Alexandria silos have a capacity of 100,000 tons each. Some 93 outlets have been added. In the field of clothing projects, there are now 67 branches, including 15 for university students. In the tourism field, the number of tourists last year increased by 7 percent and the lodging capacity — that is the number of beds — increased by 17 percent. The new passanger terminal which is being built in Cairo will handle 10 million passengers. In the first stage, it will handle 5 million. This stage will be completed in 1984-85.

In the field of the Islamic call and the spread of Islamic culture, the government pays attention to the spread of religious enlightenment among the workers and youths through the enlightenment groups that roam the outlaying areas and through the enlightenment of the citizens in word and thought to make them understand their religion and world. Training programs have been arranged to raise the standard of imams and religious leaders so they can honor their country in the states to which they are delegated. The enlightenment is also done through the discussion of the current issues in the mosque and through raising children on the love of the Koran. The government spares no efforts to assist the Islamic societies through grants and scholarships to expand the Islamic call and to enable them to carry out their mission in the best possible way.

In the education sector, 1,070,000 students have been accepted in the first grade. This represents about 91 percent of the total number of students required to attend school. Furthermore, 63 percent of students who received preparatory school certificates entered technical schools and the rest entered regular secondary schools. There are 500,000 university students. Housing is provided for 10 percent of these students. We subsidized university books to the tune of 12 million pounds. Scientific research has been linked to production. Research is now being done to promote industry and agriculture. This has already produced many positive effects.

In the reconstruction sector, last year we built 65,000 housing units out of 130,000 planned units. This year, 140,000 housing units are planned. New brick factories have been built. We have been concentrating on the cement industry in Egypt. There are nine cement production lines. We are following up this production with the minister concerned and with the companies.

In the health sector, we consume medicines worth 480 million pounds annually. This is a huge figure. The respected assembly previously discussed a plan for medicine. There is a plan. There are also 13 million pounds available for investment. There is an attempt to limit the use of medicine, and to use subsidized [word indistinct]. All this is part of the state's plan regarding medicines. The important thing is that no medicine will be dispensed without a medical prescription. This is the essence of the misuse of medicines. The price of medicine in Egypt, in some cases, is one-tenth of its equivalent abroad. Therefore, a law is being debated by the assembly's health committee to make it a crime to smuggle medicines. A penalty must be imposed on anyone who leaves Egypt with medicines that exceed his personal use for a limited period. This price difference tempts many people to smuggle and trade Egyptian medicines abroad.

With regard to insurance, social insurance today covers 44 million citizens compared to 42 million in the previous year. In other words, almost all the citizens enjoy social insurance. A minimum of 29 pounds and a maximum of 209 pounds are paid in pensions. The government [words indistinct] the increase in those directly insured by the end of 1983-84 to 11.2 million citizens.

With regard to the affairs of immigration and the Egyptians abroad, of course, you followed up the conference of our expatriate sons who came to Egypt. This conference resulted in the establishment of a company. A link will be established with Egyptian clubs abroad so they will not feel as strangers; to increase their contribution to the motherland, Egypt; and to teach them Arabic.

The government's attention to youths is self-evident and assumes priority. This attention is manifested in sports centers, youth centers, moral guidance, information, education, schools, and in all locations.

Giving attention to the youth is considered to be a primary issue for the government. The development of culture which took place in recent times [word indistinct] the Islamic civilization, the Islamic museum, the Islamic antiquities, the Coptic antiquites, the Salah ad-Din citadel. Efforts have been made to prepare them to the new [word indistinct] Attention was also given to the promotion of art and the artistic movement in Egypt on the bases of our ethics, heritage and history.

Information: Television reaches almost all Egypt. [words indistinct] station with Sudan, the Nile valley, [words indistinct] whereby Egypt covers Sudan for a specific period.

Administrative development: Attention had been concentrated on administration, [word indistinct] of individuals, improving performance and preparing specific program to improve performance.

What remains is the settlements law [qanun at-taswiyat] which has been in the assembly for some time now. I believe that the time has come for this law to be enacted by the assembly as soon as possible [applause]

Honorable members: This is a quick overview of the government policies and the achievements it has accomplished and those it hopes to accomplish in the future. These no doubt underline a positive course and an insistence to move from the existing state of affairs to how they should be. [word indistinct] The pillars of an edifice we want to establish by amity and love and to fortify it with faith in God almighty in all we do. We have to proceed on this path, which we must pave with resolve and will reach the broad horizons that our hearts open with hope. We have to tackle the perils with insistence to compensate for that which we have missed and to attain a better future in which work will be the ideal [word indistinct]. We must cling to scientific procedure so as to achieve by objectivity and purity the will of change. We must achieve unity among the citizens so as to guarantee by their collaboration a singleness of purpose and splendid goals. [word indistinct] to new values that affirm our link with dear Egypt, the supporter of the Arab nation and its guardian through the ages. May God give us success toward the good and progress of this nation. God's peace be with you. [applause]

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Interviews Minister of State Ghali

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[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Hidayat 'abd an-Nabi in Cairo — date not given]

[Text] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: Mr Minister, what does Egypt's election as a member of the Security Council mean? What will its role be on the Middle East at the Security Council?

Dr Butrus Ghali: Undoubtedly Egypt's nomination to the Security Council means international appreciation of Egyptian policy and realization of what Egyptian diplomacy has done for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It also means that Egypt will be speaking on behalf of Africa and the Arab world at the Security Council. Egypt will, as the international community and Arab brothers know, rise to the level of responsibility.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: During Egypt's nomination, it was rumored that some Arab capitals were attempting to hamper its nomination to the Security Council. Are these rumors true? What is Your Excellency's analysis of the Arab position on electing Egypt as a council member?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The great majority of Arab countries supported Egypt when it nominated itself and assisted it in winning a seat in the Security Council. In this regard, I would particularly like to mention the stands of Algeria and Morocco, which were characterized by the spirit of brotherhood, complete appreciation for the responsibility, and realization that the supreme pan-Arab interests stipulate that stands must unite and not conflict. I would like to also praise Jordan's stand in this regard. There were one or two Arab countries that chose to oppose Egypt's nomination and even carried out maneuvers and intrigues to hamper this nomination. However, all that proved futile in the face of ardent support that led to Egypt's election by a large majority of the Security Council members.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: If these rumors are true, what position on Egypt do you demand of these capitals?

Dr Butrus Ghali: We call on all the Arab brothers not to engage in secondary conflicts and to concentrate on what is in the interest of the Arab nation and our pan-Arab issues.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabi succeeded in convening a reconciliation conference in Geneva which was attended by the various Lebanese forces. What role do you demand from Saudi Arabia toward the restoration of Arab unity of ranks?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The Saudi Arabian leaders have sufficient wisdom, sense of responsibility, and pan-Arab commitment to make them adopt the course that will benefit the nation without us asking them to do anything. Saudi Arabia's capabilities and contacts give it an indispensable role. Moreover, Saudi Arabia can help in removing the obstacles that are still hampering Arab solidarity.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Mr Minister, what does the fall of another resistance stronghold, Al-Baddawi camp, mean? Where do the Palestinians go from there?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The battle in northern Lebanon is still continuing at this moment. This battle is raging among forces unequal quantitatively and qualitatively. What is taking place in the Tripoli area is a great tragedy and calamity. After this, in my opinion, the Palestinians must seek dialogue and negotiatiions to achieve their rights through peaceful means.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is Your Excellency's comment on the halt of U.S. aid to Syria?

Dr Butrus Ghali: I wish the Syrian people well and I hope that the Syrian leaders will adopt policies that will serve those people and the Arab cause.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What do you ask of the new U.S. Middle East envoy at this stage?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The president [Husni Mubarak] met with the U.S. envoy for 2 hours on 16 November. I have also met with him. We asked him to exert his efforts simultaneously, without delay and procrastination, on two fronts — the Lebanese and Palestinian fronts — in order to solve those two issues. This is because the time factor is very important and has a strong link to both issues. We explained to him the urgent need to force Israel to adopt measures that will create trust in the occupied territories and to stop maltreating the Palestinians. We pointed out to him that this is the method to make them agree to join the peace process.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is Your Excellency's comment on the developments in the situation in Cyprus?

Dr Butrus Ghali: We support everything that helps in reaching a peaceful settlement and dialogue between the conflicting sides. We oppose everything that further complicates the situation, hampers UN resolutions, and contradicts the resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement countries.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: How can the building of Israeli settlements be halted through an effective Arab move in the U.S. arena?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The settlements are illegal and represent an obstacle to peace. The Arabs must unite their ranks and convince the United States to ask Israel to refrain from building settlements or at least deny Israel U.S. aid intended for financing these settlements or some of them.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is Your Excellency's comment on Arab-Egyptian relations in general, and Egyptian-Jordanian relations in particular? Will there be high level visits between Jordan and Cairo?

Dr Butrus Ghali: Relations between Egypt and the Arab world are returning to normal gradually but surely. As for the relations between Cairo and Amman, undoubtedly these relations surpass, in depth and cooperation, existing relations between many capitals that are linked by official diplomatic relations. There is almost continuous consultation, coordination, and exchange of views between Jordan and Egypt. The exchange of visits at all levels is naturally being discussed in light of that.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: There is a lot of talk about a solution to the Lebanese crisis and developments in the region have become more complicated now. What is your opinion on the steps of a solution and the real threat of confrontation between the two superpowers in Lebanon now?

Dr Butrus Ghali: The solution in my opinion starts with foreign intervention, the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces, and the withdrawal of all the other forces whose presence in Lebanon is opposed by the legitimate Lebanese authority. Then, the Lebanese can start a sincere national dialogue and reach a new and acceptable concept that will guarantee peace, security, and stability for that fraternal country.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: How do you view the European role and the role of friendly countries during the U.S. elections?

Dr Butrus Ghali: U.S. officials have affirmed that the presidential elections will not influence U.S. peace efforts. However, it cannot be ruled out that during that period the U.S. Administration will direct the most important part of its energy toward the election campaigns. This will create a political vacuum and partial U.S. preoccupation away from peace endeavors. Europe and the friendly countries, in coordination with the United States, can play a role to ensure the absence of a political vacuum and avoid a halt to peace efforts.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is the current state of affairs of Egyptian-Israeli peace? When will the Egyptian ambassador return to Tel Aviv? Is there any possibility that he will return at the beginning of 1984?

Dr Butrus Ghali: Regrettably, the Egyptian-Israeli peace is frozen now. The Egyptian ambassador will return to Tel aviv when it becomes clear to us that his presence there will be accomplished in a political atmosphere that permits the achievement of progress toward solving the issue of the occupation of Lebanon and the Palestinian issue.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is Cairo's view of its relations with the USSR and the USSR's role in the Middle East?

Dr Butrus Ghali: Egypt is a nonaligned country. From this premise, we wish and endeavor to achieve good relations and fruitful cooperation with all countries, including the USSR, on the basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty of the two countries. I believe that our relations with the USSR are good despite the fact that the embassies in Moscow and Cairo are headed by diplomats and not ambassadors. As for the USSR's role in the Middle East, in my opinion this must be based on normal relations of cooperation without attempting to gain influence, impose hegemony, or push the region into the cold war conflicts.

Butrus Ghali on Visit to GDR, Geneva Talks

NC050808 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has pointed out that his recent visit to the GDR is an embodiment, affirmation, and continuation of a clear-cut Egyptian policy — a policy of nonalignment.

In a statement for today's issue of *MAY* magazine, Dr Ghali said GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker and the GDR leaders showed complete understanding of, appreciation, and respect for Egypt's nonaligned policy. He also met with understanding in the GDR for Egypt's policy and efforts for a just peace in the Middle East. Ghali praised the GDR Government's stand in support of the Palestinian legitimacy under the leadership of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr Ghali said cooperation with other countries to build Egypt and to promote its economy is not linked to the economic or social systems applied in these countries as much as it is linked with the respect these countries show for Egypt's sovereignty and refraining from interfering in its domestic affairs.

Regarding Egypt's stance on the Geneva talks to limit medium-range missiles, Ghali said Egypt supports dialogue and negotiations as principles to solve differences.

He asserted that Egypt's stand in support of peace in the Middle East is based on the same principles as its stand on peace in Europe and the world.

Ghali extended an appeal to both superpowers to exert the utmost efforts to return to the negotiating table and to remove the obstacles in the way of the Geneva negotiations.

Press Criticize U.S. Raid, Relations with Israel

NC050816 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 5 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Thanks to the United States," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: If the Arabs learn their lesson well, they owe thanks to the United States following its raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon. These raids have revealed that there is no room for principles in the policies of the superpowers, which, when their interests are concerned, pay no attention to tormented and weak peoples. When the Arabs emerged from the October War as a sixth [world] power, the United States promised to find a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution based on the UN resolutions, international laws, and the human rights charter. Now that the Arab power has weakened because of bargaining and foreign pressure, the United States is now ignoring this promise, putting its money on what it believes is the winning horse, namely Israel.

Concluding, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* calls on the Arabs to deduce a fact which some of them have missed, namely that their indigenous power, not promises, achieves peace and that their unity, not their discord, earns them respect.

In an editorial entitled "The Arabs and the U.S. Stand Toward Israel," *AL-AKHBAR* expresses the belief that the U.S. presidential elections have begun to influence U.S. policy and its orientation in the coming stage. The strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel is considered a deal concluded at the expense of peace and at the expense of vital U.S. interests in the area. *AL-AKHBAR* asks: Does the United States realize the troubles that this agreement will cause for it and does it realize the damage it will cause to its policy? The newspaper believes that the United States has sacrificed its future in the area for the sake of the presidential elections.

AL-AKHBAR wonders how the U.S. Administration officials could have concluded this agreement, which ignores the Arab position in the aea and also ignores the U.S. interests with the Arabs in the area. The U.S. Administration officials should have considered their position and should have known that this agreement is worthless for U.S. and Israeli interests and does not serve peace as long as the United States ignores the Arabs, their status, and their control over their lands, utilities, and resources.

AL-AKHBAR says: If the United States has concluded this strategic cooperation agreement with Israel to please Shamir, who has asked for aid and who has spoken about bargaining, this will not benefit the United States in any way but will [words indistinct]. The newspaper explains that Egypt will not approve of this agreement but will reject it. Egypt considers the United States to be responsible because it has concluded this strategic cooperation agreement with Israel. Egypt's stand toward Israel will remain the same until Israel withdraws from Lebanon and the problem of Tabah is solved. Concluding, *AL-AKHBAR* says: The United States should not have changed its stand. Through its strategic cooperation with Israel, the United States thus approves the rash policy of Israeli Prime Minsiter Shamir.

In an editorial entitled "Meetings," *AL-AHRAM* explains that [words indistinct]. If the results of the Reagan-Al-Jumayyil meeting are compared with the results of the Reagan-Shamir meeting, it can be said that the United States deals with Israel as if it deals with real people and deals with the Arabs as if it deals with ghosts. *AL-AHRAM* explains that the Reagan-Al-Jumayyil talks did not achieve a simple demand, namely a unilateral Israeli withdrawal in order to put the [Israeli-Lebanese] agreement into effect. This would have opened the way for other withdrawals. However, everything remained frozen pending a Syrian withdrawal. Washington did not wait. It concluded the desired historic agreement with Israel. It thus not only completely tilted toward Israel but also closed for the other parties the chances of a political and military retreat.

Papers Examine U.S. Presence in Lebanon

NC060844 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 6 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] The *AL-JUMHURIYAH* newspaper today says: Certainly, the United States does not need another Vietnam. Certainly, just peace in the Middle East does not require all these U.S., British, and French forces, aircraft, and warships near Lebanon. Moreover, the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon does not require the presence of occupation forces added to the occupation forces which have been asked to withdraw. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* adds: Therefore, the United States must reconsider its calculations,because its strategic alliance with Israel against the Arabs in the Middle East will not only endanger its interests in the area, it will also expose the future of its presence in the area to real danger.

AL-AKHBAR says: The U.S. raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon will not be the last. U.S. President Reagan has affirmed that the United States will not withdraw from Lebanon. Responsible U.S. sources have stated that the U.S. Marines in Lebanon have been put on full alert in preparation for further military operations in Lebanon. These sources have also stated that the scope of the U.S. attacks will be expanded to include positions within Syria if it is proved that the fire directed at the U.S. Marines originates from within Syria. *AL-AKHBAR* explains that this means that the United States will not stop at a certain limit but will continue to attack and strike on the largest scale, even within Syria.

Commentary on Demand for Return of Ambassador

NC041555 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Bahiy ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary]

[Excerpts] Ever since the Egyptian Government summoned its ambassador from Israel in protest over the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Israeli Government has not stopped launching intensive campaigns against Egypt. The latest campaign came in a statement Yitzhaq Shamir made during his recent visit to the United States. The Israeli prime minister said that the Egyptian people want their ambassador to return to Israel and that the Egyptian political leadership does not express its people's opinion.

Shamir's objective behind this statement is to imply to international public opinion that Israel is keeping a close watch on the Egyptian people's feelings and concerns, and consequently Israel, according to Shamir, is aware of this people's strong desire for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. Shamir's statement also implies that the Egyptian people and their leadership are pursuing different courses. In a more cunning way, Shamir wants to say that the Egyptian political leadership does not express its people's aspirations.

Shamir had the courage to speak on behalf of the Egyptian people and to tell the U.S. Congress how to deal with a state that is a friend of the United States. Shamir urged the congressmen to reconsider economic aid to Egypt if it does not return its ambassador to Israel. It is no secret that the Israeli Government had asked some of its friends in the United States to raise the question of the Egyptian ambassador with President Mubarak during his recent visit to Washington. However, President Mubarak's reply was firm and clear when he said: It is an Egyptian decision based only on Egypt's policy, and the return of the Egyptian ambassador hinges on three matters: Israel should effect a complete withdrawal from Lebanon according to a specific timetable; the problem of Egyptian Tabah should be tackled according to the provisions of international law; and the Palestinian cause should be steered toward self-determination based on the UN resolutions and the Camp David provisions.

Despite the clarity of the Egyptian stand, the Israeli Government does not become tired of talking about the return of the Egyptian ambassador, using all legal and illegal means. What is the reason for this uproar as long as the Israeli ambassador is still performing his duty in Cairo and as long as Cairo is still committed to the peace agreement with Israel? Actually, the return of the Egyptian ambassador is not Israel's main concern; its main concern is rather the call that has been reiterated since President Mubarak assumed power: Arab Egypt is eager to preserve Arab unity and to mend the rift at this fateful phase through which the Arab people are passing. Frankly, this call does not please Israel. Since Israel does not have the courage to raise the question of Egyptian-Arab rapprochement, it is concentrating on the need for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. Egypt has defined its stand on the issue of the return of its ambassador to Israel. Egypt will under no circumstances submit to blackmail or change this stand unless Israel responds to the Egyptian demands.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,301

JN051733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,301 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 5 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Day after day, our great people and glorious Armed Forces are affirming their ability to defend their dear homeland, the principles of their great revolution, and the future of their glorious Arab nation. The war operations at the front for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery, our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy personnel opposite their positions in the central sector of the front, killing 13 and wounding others. Some hardware was also destroyed. One of our forward units carried out an operation against enemy positions opposite its positions. Our unit destroyed a hardware stockpile and an observation post. In another area of the same sector, one of our combat patrol units clashed with an enemy patrol that attempted to approach one of our forward units. One of the enemy's men was killed, and the others fled.

2. New groups of enemy soldiers, escaping Khomeyni's inferno and his sanguinary regime, have sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the front. They were safely evacauated to the rear. In several areas of the same sector, our forces found quantities of military hardware and weapons that the enemy had left during the recent battles in the same sector. All the hardware and the weapons are serviceable.

3. One of our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite its positions in the area east of Basra, killing one enemy soldier and destroying one infantry position.

4. The sinful Iranian enemy today shelled Mandali and its environs with artillery, damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 December 1983.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Chedli Klibi 5 Dec

JN051749 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1734 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi here today and discussed with him the current Arab situation, the Palestinian developments, and the continuous Iranian aggression against Iraq. They also discussed the Arab countries' stands vis-a-vis the coming Arab summit. They stressed the need for entrenching the bases of joint Arab action in order to face the overwhelming threats against the Arab nation by emphasizing Arab solidarity and adhering to the Arab League Charter, the collective Arab Defense Pact, and the Arab summit resolutions.

Iran Warned on Shelling Civilian Establishments

JN022115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA) — Iraq tonight warned the Iranian regime against continuing its shelling of the Iraqi towns and inflicting harm on the civilian establishments and citizens. It also warned the Government of Tehran that it will respond strongly by shelling selected targets.

In a statement made here tonight, an Iraqi military spokesman said: We address a new warning to the Tehran Government and warn them that if they continue this hostile trend, we will regrettably be forced to reply strongly by striking at selected targets. He who warns is excused. In this regard, the spokesman said that day after day the Iranian regime is emphasizing, through its vile hostile actions, its encroachement on human values and its indifference to the woes to which the Iranian people are exposed as a result of its hostile war against our country.

He added: Despite Iraq's continuous calls for sparing the secure villages and towns, as it was not possible to stop the war, the Khomeyniite regime ignored these calls and continued to shell the Iraqi towns and villages and inflict harm on civilian establishments and citizens. Concluding, the spokesman said: On the basis of this stand we are committed to defend our people and their legitimate right to life.

Libyan Minister Arrives in Baghdad 5 Dec

JN051920 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1904 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA) — Libyan Minister of Justice Muhammad Sa'id al-Qadhdhafi [title and name as received] arrived in Baghdad tonight. He will lead his country's delegation to the eighth session of the council of Arab interior ministers, which began in Baghdad earlier today.

Hungarian Parliamentarians Arrive for Meeting

JN040955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA) — Dr Janos Peter, vice president of the Hungarian National Assembly, and his delegation arrived here last night at the invitation of the National Assembly. The visit will last for several days. In a statement to INA, Dr Peter said that this visit aims at strengthening cooperation between the national assemblies of both friendly countries, and at exchanging views on parliamentary matters. He added that he will hold talks with speaker and deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly on strengthing cooperation between both countries.

Na'im Haddad Leads Talks

JN041946 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] A session of talks was held today between the Iraqi National Assembly delegation led by its speaker, Na'im Haddad, and the Hungarian National Assembly delegation led by Janos Peter, vice president of the assembly. Talks dealt with the existing relations between the two countries, particularly the relations between the two assemblies, and the means of promoting them in all fields in the service of the two friendly peoples. They also reviewed the current Arab and international issues, particularly the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution. They stressed joint endeavors for world peace to serve humanity a whole.

Haddad affirmed that the Hungarian delegation's visit will help promote and develop the friendly relations between the two countries in the service of their peoples and strengthen people's struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

Janos Peter expressed his delegation's pleasure at visiting Iraq, affirming his country's desire to deepen the relations of friendship and cooperation with it. He stressed the Hungarian National Assembly's support for Iraq's peaceful efforts to end the war so as to promote peace and security in the region.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Baha ad-Din Ahmad, deputy speaker of the National Assembly; 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd ar-Razzak, secretary of the National Assembly; and a number of chairmen and members of the assembly's permanent committees. The Hungarian delegation and the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad attended on the Hungarian side.

Oil Minister Interviewed on Oil Affairs, Gulf War

JN041113 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Minister of Oil Qasim Ahmad Taqiy has asserted that the Iranian ruler's threats to close the Strait of Hormuz will harm Iran more than its neighbors.

Taqiy said: Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz would be suicidal for the Iranian economy, which is on the verge of collapse.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine *AL-MAJALIS* published here today, the Iraqi minister denied that Iraq has given any assurances to the Japanese that it will not attack the petrochemical complex in Bandar-e Khomeyni.

Taqiy said: We have not given any assurances to the Japanese and they have not requested such assurances from us. We have announced on several occasions that Bandar-e Khomeyni is in our military operations zone and that it is our right to attack it at any time as long as Iran is determined to continue with the war and its attacks on Iraq and to avoid peace.

Taqiy also said that Iraq will demand that its production quota be raised from 1.2 million to 1.8 million barrels for day [BPD] during the next OPEC ministerial meeting, which is to meet in Geneva on 7 January.

Taqiy added: Iraq must be given the opportunity to increase its current quota if the organization is indeed united and the member-states are concerned about their common interests. I believe our demand is realistic.

Taqiy continued: It is only natural for Iraq to regain its true quota. This is because Iraq's current production is not compatible with its oil needs, its current commitments, or with the size of its population compared to other OPEC member-states.

Taqiy warned that Iraq does not want to be compelled to behave like Iran. He said that although its oil quota was set at 1.2 million BPD, Iran violated that decision and increased its production to 2.4 million BPD.

Taqiy called on OPEC to positively respond to Iraq's legitimate demand and give it its fair, legitimate, and realistic quota.

On the other hand, the Iraqi oil minister announced that Iraq will be repsonsible for financing the new Saudi pipeline [that will carry Iraqi oil]. He said that many international firms have expressed their readiness to finance this pipeline, but that Iraq will choose the quarter with which it will cooperate in financing and implementing this project.

Briefs

New Saudi Ambassador — Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn today received Tariq 'Abdallah Al-Harithi's credentials as the Saudi Ambassador in Baghdad. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Khalid 'Abd al-Muni'm, director of the presidential office and secretary to the president, attended. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83 JN]

Al-Qasim Blames Israel for Lebanese Situation

JN060806 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Dec 83 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman, (AFP) — Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim stressed yesterday that the deteriorating Lebanese situation is due to the illegitimate presence of the Israeli occupation forces in that country.

In a statement to AFP yesterday, Al-Qasim said that in searching for a solution to the Lebanese crisis, priority must be given to the Israeli Forces' withdrawal from Lebanon over the withdrawal of any other forces. He added that the United States must achieve the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Al-Qasim pointed out that due to ignoring such a priority, the U.S. planes carried out raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon the day before yesterday, Sunday, and a Syrian reply to these raids has occured.

The foreign minister explained that Israel entered Lebanon under the pretext of protecting the security of its northern borders from Palestinian operations.

Al-Qasim concluded: Now that the Palestinian forces have left southern Lebanon, the United States must force Israel to withdraw from this region.

NCC Condemns U.S.-Israel Agreement, U.S. Raid

JN051728 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The National Consultative Council [NCC] has unanimously condemned the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, and the U.S. air raid on the Syrian forces in Lebanon. A number of NCC members proposed that the NCC speaker issue a statement on how the announcement of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance marks a decisive and dangerous phase in their relationship that will result in the most serious Arab and international situation that the international community has known since World War II. This alliance has also closed all the doors of peace in the region and turned the United States, which should be a referee, into a complete ally of Israel.

The NCC members also suggested that the agreement of this dangerous strategic alliance and the U.S. air raid on the Syrian forces in Lebanon be denounced. This raid has proven that the United States has departed from its role as a peacekeeping force.

The NCC, which met this morning under NCC Speaker Sulayman 'Arar and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers, reviewed its agenda and discussed a number of issues of concern to the citizens and the homeland. At the end of the session, Sulayman 'Arar announced that the next session, which will discuss the draft law of the general budget for 1984, will be held at 1030 next Sunday.

Amman Press Comments on U.S. Air Raid

JN051009 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Internationalization Looms Over the Region," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: Within the parameters of continuing the escalation of tension and confrontation in the Middle East, the U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon and Syria's challenge of this raid is a new warming up operation that endangers the future of peace in the region and the opportunities for containing the overwhelming danger in which all the concerned parties are participating —these parties that are pulling the strings of all aspects of the Lebanese crisis.

The U.S. military involvement in Lebanon is a prelude to greater involvement as long as it is justified by direct or indirect Soviet presence in the region. The resorting to force and strategic alliance with Israel will only lead to more violent acts and counter violent acts and will ultimately transform the region into an arena for superpower confrontation at the expense of the region's issues and the souls, interests, and future of its peoples.

If we are aware that some parties will benefit from internationalizing the conflict and polarizing alliances with superpowers, it is easy to see the dangers of the coming phase not only for peace in the Middle East but also in the world.

His Majesty King Husayn the day before yesterday explained realistically that the present conflict in the region is between those forces dominating the political and military arena and those forces controlling wealth. He added that the search for a comprehensive settlement is the only solution for the deep-rooted crisis and for preventing international confrontation.

When the United States assumed its role as a neutral mediator and serious partner in the peace process through President Reagan's initiative of September 1982, this role and initiative faced a real test in proving U.S. credibility and ability to perform this role. The result was a failure in face of Israel's intransigence and insistence on proceeding with its aggressive plans —by settling in and Judaizing the occupied Arab territories, invading Lebanon, erupting conflicts in Lebanon, and occupying large parts of its, trying to wipe out the legitimate Palestinian existence which militarily and politically represents the Palestinians and their just cause.

Escalating the situation and proposing military options will not solve the region's problems but will further complicate them and deepen hostilities. This will lead to internationalization and increased confrontation at the expense of the problems, security, stability, and future of the region's peoples.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: If the peoples who are subject to danger are unable to stop this wave, the United Nations, peace-loving peoples, and all organizations must act now. They must halt the warming up operation which Israel is practicing and which is being nourished by extremism so as to prevent the situation from collapsing and a bloody conflict taking place —a conflict whose effects will not be confined to the Middle East.

Under the headline "Signs of Escalation," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The U.S. raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon yesterday constitute a dangerous development that complicates and escalates the situation not only in Lebanon, but also in the whole region — a region which is characterized by hypersensitivity toward such developments. Although it has not yet become clear whether yesterday's raids represent the beginning of a new U.S. trend in the region — a trend which adopts armed force as a language for dialogue and persuasion —or whether they were just a limited military operation, the general political course suggests the possibility of a transformation taking place in the U.S. Middle East policy — a policy which, at any rate, lacks wisdom.

These U.S. raids, which are pessimistic signs, have taken place only one day after similar Israeli raids on the same mountain area in Lebanon. This makes one certain that the first phases of the joint U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance agreement have begun.

The adoption of a policy of force and a diplomacy of air raids is asbolutely rejected. Our region is in bad need of serious and sincere action in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, not the adoption of a policy of force and gunboats which is no longer valid. Thus, the call for resorting to rationalism and wisdom during the current delicate circumstances is a warning against the consequences of this policy —a policy that will only produce new disputes and catastrophies in the region and the whole world, amid a state of international polarization that is strongly increasing the conflagration.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Although it is unsuitable at present to hold certain parties responsible for the current situation, we must say that what took place in the Lebanese mountain area is due to Arab fragmentation. The tough actions against the Arabs is due to their weakness and disunity. Therefore, those who have worked and who are still working to weaken Arab solidarity and to act separately against the principles of pan- Arab unanimity must learn the lesson early. They must derive all its suitable conclusions as early as possible.

Under the headline, "In Defense of Honor," *AR-RA'Y* says: U.S.-Israeli relations have begun a new and dangerous phase. If Shamir's visit to Washington, his talks, and agreements with the U.S. Administration have led to this phase, then Middle East stability and world peace are currently facing a more dangerous situation than that which the world community had faced in World War II — the situation resulting from the extreme and identical U.S.-Israeli views.

We have always been aware of the deep U.S.-Israeli alliance and the ability of world Zionism to drag the United States away from its ethical, humanitarian, and international obligations. However, we have been betting that Washington would realize what the world has realized regarding the real Zionist intentions and their danger to world peace and stability. But the fact is that President Reagan's administration has shown identical views with Zionism and its instrument, Israel, concerning extremism annd hostility to the Arabs.

If Zionist extremism and hostility are justified by considering Israel a base for invasion, terrorism, and expansion, the painful question here will be: Why should a superpower that has responsibilities adopt such a racial stand against the Arabs, their land, and rights?

What concerns us here, in light of what the Zionist enemy's sources declared and the U.S. circles affirmed, is that Washington has finally fired the bullet of mercy at its Middle East peace initiative. This initiative, which the Arabs accepted and the Zionist enemy rejected since the moment of its announcement, has fallen dead. On the one hand, Washington can no longer claim its ability to play the role of the mediator in looking for a just settlement to the crisis, because the ally cannot play the role of the mediator; on the other hand, Washington can no longer gain the Arabs' confidence, even the very minimum confidence, as long as it declares its blind support for and unlimited alliance with the Israeli invasion, expansion, and terrorism.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The foregoing is one point, the other being that the Israeli raid on Lebanon the day before yesterday, and the U.S. raid yesterday, affirms that a new phase of confrontation has begun. If the Nazi designs of expansion, power parades, hatred, and extremism had led to two savage and dirty world wars, the circumstances which U.S.-Zionist extremism is currently creating reminds the world of those black circumstances that preceded World War I and II with all their horrors. The source of all U.S. and Zionist illusions will remain to be the belief that the Arab nation has entirely passed away and its revival is hard to achieve. But history says the contrary, and affirms that extremism, shows of force, and ridiculing of peoples will soon collapse before the emerging latent forces who will fight in defense of their honor, identity, and right to survive.

U.S. Should Listen to Moderate Arabs, Not Israel

JN041029 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial: "The Better Argument"]

[Text] It cannot be wholly true that the Reagan administration has turned to Israel for strategic cooperation only to demonstrate its frustration over the stalemate in Lebanon and over what it perceives as the Soviet Union's role behind Syrian intransigence on Middle East issues. If it indeed was the Syrian presence in Lebanon and the Soviet "threat" in the region that weighed most heavily in President Reagan's decision to bail Israel out of its current troubles in return for no political concessions from the Israelis on his Middle East initiative, then surely the U.S. President might have had a number of different avenues to explore before making his decision.

A message from King Fahd, conveyed by the Saudi ambassador in Washington, to the U.S. President during Israeli Premier Shamir's talks in the U.S. last week was just one of the avenues for a Lebanon settlement which the U.S. Administration could consider. In return for some form of American pressure on Israel to soften its stand on Lebanon, as the Saudi envoy to the U.S. indicated after delivering the message, Saudi Arabia was more than willing to press the Syrians for withdrawing their troops from Lebanese territory — and results were almost guaranteed.

In that way, rather than by undermining the Arab moderates' position through forging closer ties with the Israelis, the Americans could solve not only the problem of Lebanon more easily and more quickly but also could strengthen the hands of the Arab moderates to shore up more Arab support for the wider question of a Middle East settlement, based on the Reagan proposals of last year's Sept. 1 and the Arab plan adopted at Fes during the same month.

The Americans might have not wanted to accept Prince Bandar's remarks that Israel was more of a liability to U.S. interests in the Middle East than a strategic partner, but they could — and in our opinion should — have taken the Saudi message exactly as it was. Only then could have there been real hope to move things forward on the question of Lebanon and the Middle East generally.

Granted, Washington's latest step to prop up Israel again at the expense of the Arabs was neither a momentary and shocking decision for us nor a move isolated from the rest of what is happening here in this region and in the U.S. itself. But the theory that it was taken merely to demonstrate American frustration over Lebanon and to counter Soviet presence in the region is hardly one that stands the test.

Only two days ago, a senior U.S. administration official was quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia's "strong interest" in settling the Lebanon problem "is an asset". We can only wonder what has happened to that argument.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on U.S.-Israeli Pacts, Arab Cause

JN041257 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Central Cause and the Test For Peace"]

[Text] Through recent Jordanian political moves, His Majesty King Husayn has clarified the bases of the Jordanian stand toward all current developments. This creates room for doubting the credibility of the national trend toward maintaining Arab rights and moving Arab reality from a passive to an active role in the area.

In his statement to the *NEW YORK TIMES* as well as in his speech to the Turkish president, His Majesty King Husayn said that achieving Arab rights is a strategic objective that cannot be changed, regardless of the obstacles there are in achieving these rights.

Despite the current setbacks and despite all attempts to changeits priority or to place it at the bargaining and settlements table by limiting its legitimacy, the Palestine cause will remain the crux of the region's conflict and problems, and the hotbed of the chaos the region is facing, unless a permanent solution is reached that will guarantee Palestinian self-determination on Palestinian soil.

Israel was able to abort all initiatives aimed at settling the Palestinian problem, and to arouse many conflicts and create many wars in order to end the Palestine cause. Israel exploited the Arab absence and the deteriorating pan-Arab situation that opened the region to the danger of internationalizing the conflict and losing the cause in a power struggle over regional interests and zones of influence. Israel is the one that benefits from international tension in the region and from keeping it under the no war no peace umbrella, while others pay for this with their security, stability, and future.

If the recent strategic agreements between Washington and Tel Aviv have entrenched this situation, these agreements then mean a reverse in the way the United States is dealing with the cause and a return to the United States' 1970's scenario of understanding of the Middle East problems, which does not work in the 1980's.

The Zionist danger against the Arab nation has been greatly increased by the U.S. concept of the Soviet danger in the Middle East and of the escalation of Moscow's influence in the region. This concept has also cleared the way for [ending] Israel's isolation and its economic crisis, so that Israel can again create tension and aggression in the region.

Although the United States is still adhering to the role of a mediator and partner in the peace process, it will not be able to claim or assume this role now unless it can create new ways, contrary to its current policy, of translating the peace process into real action.

Nobody will participate in creating the peace process unless it includes proof of U.S. credibility and of its ability to make Israel follow the path of peace, represented by withdrawing from Lebanon and stopping the settlement policy that is creating a new fait accompli in the Arab territory every day.

If the region now represents a difficult test for world peace the Palestine cause represents the central test for all working forces in the arena and for the credibility of their trends toward peace.

Turkish President Concludes Visit to Amman

JN051339 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Turkish President Kenan Evren left Amman today at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to Jordan which was in response to an invitation from His Majesty King Husayn. His majesty led those who saw the Turkish president off on departure. President Evren was accorded an official send-off at Amman airport.

Cables Husayn on Departure

JN051650 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Upon his departure, His Excellency President Evren sent the following cable to His Majesty King Husayn:

To His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal: As I leave Jordanian airspace, I would like to extend to you, dear brother, my many thanks and deep appreciation for the good hospitality and warm welcome that you afforded me and the delegation accompanying me. I will always recall the happy memories of my stay in your beautiful country and look forward to continuing the dialogue with Your Majesty. I also look forward to receiving Your Majesty and Her Majesty Queen Nur in Turkey.

On this occasion, I would like to reaffirm my good wishes for you, for your continued good health and happiness, and for the progress and prosperity of the fraternal Jordanian people.

[Signed] Kenan Everen, president of the Republic of Turkey.

Information Minister Meets Turkish Journalists

JN051442 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has stated that Turkish President Kenan Evren's visit to Jordan is a step toward promoting Turkish-Jordanian relations, which he described as excellent. He said that these relations are characterized by mutual respect and that there was agreement on the issues discussed. Receiving the Turkish press delegation that accompanied President Evren during his visit to Jordan, Abu 'Awdah pointed out today that the strenght of these relations is based on several factors, such as the special Turkish-Jordanian ties. He noted that the two countries occupy similar geographic and strategic locations, and referred to the same cultural heritage that binds them and that is based on their affiliation to the same Islamic culture.

The information minister said that the challenges facing Turkey and Jordan are the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and the Arab territories. He pointed out that Turkey may play a significant role in contributing to the restoration of peace in the Middle East and the return of Jerusalem to its legitimate owners, because the responsibility for preserving Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity is a common one.

Speaking about the Iraqi-Iranian war, Abu 'Awdah said: Iran's motives in prolonging the war will threaten the region's security and stability and may create factors for a prolonged struggle, which the region is trying to avoid in order to serve its own peoples and in order to progress. Abu 'Awdah made it clear that the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement will lead the region to a state of international polarization — something which will undermine all peace factors in the region. Answering a question on the causes for the progress that visitors see in Jordan, Abu 'Awdah said:

This progress is due to the stability that Jordan enjoys among the states in the region, and to its economic system, its credibility in dealing with world states, and its training and educational policy, which has made the Jordanian citizens the country's most valuable asset.

Reportage on Visit of U.S. Congressmen

Briefed by Al-Qasim

JN031424 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim today received a U.S. congressional delegation which is currently visiting Jordan. Al-Qasim briefed the delegation on the various developments in the Middle East issue in general and the Palestine question in particular, with a special concentration on Jordan's principled, firm position toward these issues. The minister also affirmed that Jordan is seeking to realize a just, peaceful settlement in the region based on the Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

Al-Qasim also expressed his hope that the members of the delegation will have a chance to acquaint themselves with the various aspects of the region's situation in a way that would enable them to convey a true and clear picture to their citizens in the United States which the delegation represents. He also stressed his confidence that the U.S. people, who were the first to support the principles of human rights, including self-determination, will certainly understand the aspirations of the Palestinian people, who suffer from occupation, with regard to the implementation of these principles. Al-Qasim then answered various questions posed by the members of the delegation about Jordan's position.

Received by Senate President

JN031530 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Amman 3 Dec (PETRA) — Senate President Ahmad at-Tarawinah today received a U.S. congressional delegation which is currently visiting Jordan. He asserted to the delegation Jordan's firm position toward the Palestine question. He pointed out that a just and lasting solution will not be realized in the region without a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including self-determination on their national soil.

At-Tarawinah also briefed the delegation on the harm the Arab homeland and U.S. interests in the region will suffer as a result of the political and military agreement that was recently concluded between the United States and Israel. He pointed out that the unlimited U.S. material and moral support for Israel will encourage it to launch aggression and expand in the region.

See Occupied Territories Minister

JN041619 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 3 Dec (PETRA) — Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied territories' affairs, today received a U.S. congressional delegation which is currently visiting Jordan.

Ibrahim briefed the delegation on the situation of the Palestinian refugees and evacuees, and their suffering due to the reduction of the services which are presented by the international community and the suspension of food rations. Ibrahim also briefed the delegation on the situation in the occupied territories, the suffering of the citizens there, the difficult living conditions, the violations of their freedom, and the occupation authorities' policy, which aims at confiscating their lands in order to establish settlements on them, and at closing schools and universities in an attempt to subjugate the citizens to the occupiers' designs and consequently force them to leave their homeland.

Ibrahim pointed out that the major obstacle to a just peace in the region is represented by Israel's policy in the occupied territories, and that a just peace cannot be achieved except through the guarantee of the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation and self-determination on their homeland's soil.

Continued Reportage on Soviet Journalists Delegation

See Abu 'Awdah, Ibrahim

JN031354 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received at his office this afternoon the delegation of Soviet journalists that is currently visiting Jordan.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah briefed the delegation on the seriousness of digging the sea-to-sea canal. He stressed that Jordan considers this action an aggression. He also pointed out the dangers that digging the canal would cause for Jordanian plans in general and the Jordanian economy in particular. Abu 'Awdah pointed out the Israeli actions and the enemy designs that are aimed at expelling the citizens of the occupied Arab territories from their land and emptying these territories of their legal owners. Abu 'Awdah also briefed the delegation on Israel's attempts to obliterate the Palestinian people's culture. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the current situation in the region. At the end of the meeting, Abu 'Awdah answered the delegation's questions on the situation in the region.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied territories' affairs, also received the Soviet delegation of journalists. He briefed the delegation on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the occupation authorities' actions against the Arab citizens — actions that are represented by violating freedom and establishing settlements in an attempt to Judaize the Arab territories and expel their citizens.

Ibrahim also pointed out the Jordanian Government's efforts to support the kinfolk in the occupied homeland, to entrench them on their land, and to enable them to confront the occupiers' hostile designs. He also briefed the delegation on the situation of the refugees and evacuees in the camps, their difficult circumstances, and the Jordanian Government's efforts to take care of their affairs.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the recent developments in the Middle East problem, the current situation in the region, and the effect of the situation on the Palestinian question.

Received by Al-Qasim

JN041323 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim this morning received the delegation of Soviet journalists that is currently visiting Jordan. Al-Qasim briefed the delegation on Jordan's position on the Middle East issue. He especially emphasized the latest developments in the Palestine question, affirming Jordan's concern about realizing a peaceful settlement based on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including self-determination. He also stressed Jordan's support for independent Palestinian decisionmaking and for the legitimate Palestinian leadership.

Al-Qasim also touched on the painful situation in Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian war, stressing the need to continue international efforts to end this war in the service of the concerned countries and their peoples as well as for the sake of the region's stability and peace.

Reportage on Downed Israeli Aircraft

Syrians Shoot Down 2 Planes

NC061119 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the Syrian air defenses today shot down two aircraft over Al-Biqa'. The first was a pilotless reconnaissance aircraft and the second a piloted aircraft. At 1145 a warplane was shot down when antiaircraft fire and SAM missiles were fired while a squadron of five aircraft was overflying Al-Biqa'. The pilot was captured by the Syrian forces in the area. Another drone was shot down at 1000 today. Its wreckage was taken to the nearest Syrian post in the area.

Ihdin Radio Confirms Downing

NC061136 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Syrian air defenses today shot down two Israeli aircraft over Al-Biqa'. A squadron of five Israeli aircraft raided Syrian positions at about 1145. The Syrian air defenses shot down one aircraft and captured its pilot. The Syrians at 1000 today shot down an Israeli drone.

Pilot Captured

NC061146 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Syrian air defenses shot down an Israeli pilotless reconnaissance plane over Al-Biqa' this morning. Israeli aircraft flew over the area between 1000 and 1030. Multinational aircraft flew over Beirut and the mountain at the same time. We have now learned that another Israeli plane was shot down and its pilot was captured.

U.S. Air Raid Reportedly Destroyed Missile Bases

NC061210 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Reports available from military sources affirm that the U.S. raid on the Syrian positions caused the destruction of 15 SAM missile bases of various types as well as the military backbone of the Syrian 83d Brigade, which had been stationed in Western Beirut before it was evacuated last summer. The military sources said that the raid on the 83d Brigade positions in the mountain destroyed its headquarters, its military operations room, its intelligence post, its artillery emplacements, vehicle assembly points, and ammunition depots.

VOL Says PRC Diplomat Held at Syrian Roadblock

NC052048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information that the Syrian and the Syrian Nationalist Party forces manning an armed roadblock in Duhur ash-Shuwayr abducted (Zhao Xichun), the PRC Embassy's cultural attache, while he was returning to Beirut from Germany [as heard] a few days ago in his ambassador's car. The Chinese diplomat was detained for 24 hours. The car was returned yesterday but documents and other articles were kept by the kidnappers.

Islamic Forces Clash With Syrians in Tripoli

NC061027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Clashes erupted in the Al-Qubbah area in Tripoli beginning at 1100 today between the Islamic Unification Movement and the Syrian forces stationed in the area. The combatants are using heavy- medium- and light-caliber weapons. The latest security report from the north says that these clashes are still continuing.

Rashid Karami Praises Syrian Forces' Actions

JN051655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Rashid Karami, former Lebanese prime minister, has praised the Syrian forces' heroic retaliation against the U.S. aggression on the Syrian positions in Lebanon. Rashid Karami said in a press statement that the Syrian retaliation is proof of the steadfastness, will, and efficiency of the Syrian Armed Forces in repulsing aggression. Karami called on all the Arab countries to support Syria in order to halt the imperialist conspiracy aimed against the entire Arab nation. Karami praised Syria's people and Army, personified by President Hafiz al-Asad, whose policy and courage have embodied the hope and aspirations of all honest free men and strugglers.

Al-Jumayyil Briefs Al-Wazzan on U.S. Visit

NC051810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at the Presidential Palace this afternoon. During the meeting, the president briefed the prime minister on the results of his visit to Washington and on the talks with the U.S. officials. They also reviewed the current situation in the country, particularly the security situation.

Al-Wazzan Comments on Car Bomb Incident

NC051804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] After overseeing the progress of the rescue operations, the removal of the rubble, and the investigations that were immediately started, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said: Every day we have to express regret and to weep. The crime is very ugly and its sole purpose is criminality, murder, destruction, and the spread of fear and disturbances. If we say that the Lebanese people must reconcile and unite, it is because the question does not only involve the safety of the homeland but also the safety of the citizens. However precious the soil of the homeland is, it would be a mere land without a people. The situation requires all of Lebanon's sons to stand together now that all the conflicting forces of the world are present in Lebanon. The question has become one of a people who should unite to confront all the challenges or who will otherwise remain prey to criminality and conspiracies of various forms and aims. Replying to a question, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: None of the rumors as to the source of the [booby-trapped] car can be taken for certain, and we do not accept the propagation of any rumor before the investigations provide all the information. We also do not approve of any stand that trades in lives for political and other interests in the present circumstances.

PSP Condemns U.S. Raid on Syrian Positions

JN041626 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 4 Dec (SANA) — A spokesman for the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has affirmed that the aggressive U.S. attack against the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon falls within the framework of the aggressive U.S.- Zionist plan against Lebanon and Syria, which constitute an impregnable fortress in the face of that plan.

The spokesman has also praised the Syrian Arab Forces' confrontation of the U.S. planes and their downing of three enemy planes and said that imperialism and Zionism and their agents view Syria as a main obstacle to turning Lebanon into a U.S.-Zionist protectorate and spreading hegemony over the entire Arab region. The spokesman also said that the aggressive U.S. raid came after the Israeli raid against the PSP positions yesterday, and affirmed that these raids are considered as an interpretation of the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance, which aims at imposing hegemony on the region through the logic of aggression.

Junblatt Says PSP Not Responsible for U.S. Deaths

JN051805 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and member of the National Salvation Front, announced today that the Socialist fighters were not responsible for the death of the U.S. soldiers. He held the Lebanese Army responsible for the military escalation, accusing it of not adhereing to the cease-fire.

In a press statement in Damascus, Walid Junblatt affirmed that his party does not intend to attack the Multinational Force. He urged officials in charge of this force to discover the truth regarding the military escalation. Junblatt added that the Lebanese Army is exploiting its positions near the Multinational Force in order to fire at the western suburb [of Beirut] and the mountain. He said that such action forces the opposition fighters to reply, and consequently causes a state of chaos and the fall of innocent victims, such as the U.S. soldiers who fell yesterday. Walid Junblatt accused the Lebanese Army and the Phalangist sides, as he put it, of being responsible for the recent suspicious explosions.

Phalangists on Dayr al-Qamar, Attacks on Marines

NC051855 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces Command Council official spokesman on 5 December — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Fadi Afram and in the presence of its members. The conferees discussed the political and security developments, particularly the questions of Dayr al-Qamar and the attack on the U.S. forces. The Lebanese Forces wish to declare the following:

1. On lifting the siege of Dayr al-Qamar: The decision lifting the siege of Dayr al-Qamar must be a step toward the following:

A. Entry to and exit from Dayr al-Qamar must be free, particularly for members of international organizations and the foreign press, and for the transport of foodstuffs, fuel, and medicine through the International Red Cross and humanitarian institutions.

B. The departure of displaced people from Dayr al-Qamar must be linked to their return to their original villages, and not to displacing them in the streets and schools of Beirut without shelter, livelihood, or dignity. The citizen's dignity is in his land, home, and village.

C. Absolute priority must be given to ensuring the safety of those present in Dayr al-Qamar and those who will return to their villages. Their security must be guaranteed by legitimate Lebanese forces, supported by Multinational or UN Forces or by UN observers.

D. The departure of the Lebanese Forces fighters from Dayr al-Qamar depends on finding a security solution that will guarantee the safety of over 30,000 Christians who will be exposed to what befell their relatives, who suffered from the hatred and savageness of Junblatt's followers.

E. Only the return of the people of Ash-Shuf, 'Alayh, and the Upper Al-Matn to their villages can ensure the continuity of the coexistence formula in Lebanon, which received a heavy blow through the massacres against the Christians by the racists. The assassination of Shaykh Halim Taqiy ad-Din is proof of the stance of those rejecting the policy of liberalization and coexistence. The late Taqiy ad-Din had tried to call for the return of coexistence in the mountain.

2. On the attack against the U.S. planes last Saturday, the shooting down of two U.S. planes, the shelling of the U.S. forces last night, and the martyrdom of eight Marines and the wounding of several others, the Command Council wishes to affirm the following:

A. It denounces the attack on the U.S. forces, in particular,and, generally, attacks on all the forces contributing toward protecting the Lebanese people from being the victims of Syrian ambitions.

B. It conveys warm condolences to the U.S. President and people on the much-regretted death of the U.S. soldiers, who were serving peace in Lebanon and defending the mutual values of the Lebanese and American peoples.

C. It fully supports all the measures adopted by the Multinational Force, particularly the U.S. forces, to protect their forces or to contribute toward supporting the Lebanese authorities and the Lebanese Army and toward fighting terrorism, which is being sponsored by the Syrian occupation forces in our country.

D. It draws attention to the need to firmly and effectively resist the Syrian attempts to set up a trap for the United States by blocking Syria's role and the Syrian political and military presence, which does not hesitate to resort to criminal action to achieve its objectives and the Soviet Union's plans in the area. Syria is prepared to drive thousands of its soldiers to death to remain in Lebanon. Syria is hoping that the killing of U.S. soldiers will oust the Multinational Forces from Lebanon. This is Syria's demand, or the clear and direct goal of its policy and the policy of its instruments in the mountain and Beirut's southern suburbs.

VOL Reports on Security Situation in Beirut

NC061313 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The appearance of gunmen in the southern suburbs of Beirut has been noted. A roadblock was set up by the Amal Movement and the Khomeynites in the Al-Musharrafiyah area of Beirut. Some areas of Beirut went on strike today in denunciation of yesterday's crime in Tariq al-Jadidah. Gunmen roamed stores, offices, and restaurants in the Al-Hamra area of Beirut and compelled their owners to close their premises by force after firing in the air to intimidate them, particularly in the Lubnan Bank area. As a result traffic came to a standstill and the streets were deserted. The Security Committee did not meet for the third consecutive day today because the Amal representative, Ayyub Humayyid, was absent. Around 1300 today clashes were resumed in the Al-Qubbah area of Tripoli where the gendarmerie are being subjected to sniper and shellfire.

Security Arrangements Committee Fails To Meet

NC051914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee did not convene a meeting today for the second day running. Meanwhile, Colonel Jean Nasif, Army representative in the committee, made continuous efforts yesterday and today to create a suitable atmosphere for convening the committee in order to discuss the matters on its agenda. However, the Amal representative again declined to attend, citing as preconditions the fulfillment of some demands, some of whose aspects are just. The Army representative in the committee expressed regret that some of his colleagues in the committee sometimes link peripheral matters — though important — with the more important comprehensive issues. He reiterated that the dialogue table continues to be the only positive means for resolving all the problems, however fundamental and basic, provided that goodwill prevails. The Army representative will continue his endeavors in an attempt to ensure that the committee will convene a meeting tomorrow.

Sidon MP Interview with MONDAY MORNING

NC051116 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 28 Nov-4 Dec 83 pp 40-45

[Interview by Sidon MP Nazih Bizri with *MONDAY MORNING* correspondent Mona as-Sa'id conducted in Arabic — date and place not given]

[Text] Question: Could you describe the situation prevailing in the south in the wake of the introduction of arbitrary measures by the Israeli occupation forces — control of the crossing of bridges, permits, the use of dogs against the people, and firing over the heads of civilians?

Answer: Early yesterday (Wednesday), they opened the bridges for people to cross. Two hours later, they sealed off the bridges and refused to allow cars to cross. They even started to beat the waiting crowds with sticks, and they also pelted them with stones. In some cases, they let the air out of the tires of cars.

In the early afternoon, around 1 p.m. they opened up the access route to the south across the Al-Awwali bridge until around 3 p.m., when they closed the bridge again. All in all, the bridge was only open for a very short time.

Furthermore, those allowed to cross are subjected to a very thorough search, which means that each car might be held up for 10 or 15 minutes before being allowed to cross. Pedestrians were subjected to various forms of humiliation and harassment, and some were forced to kneel on the stones, while others were beaten. Frankly, it is hard to imagine a more humiliating set-up. On Thursday, everything was virtually paralyzed. They cut the highways to facilitate the movement of the large buses that transported around 5,000 people from the Ansar prison camp to various parts of the south. Most of them came to Sidon; some were transported by planes to Algeria, as you already know. Highways which were not routes for the buses were opened. The Al-Awwali bridge was opened the pedestrians and to some cars, and then closed for three hours, and later opened again.

Question: Is the Israels' arbitrary behavior on the bridges a daily feature?

Answer: In one way or another this goes on every day. Moreover we, unfortunately, have not been able to do anything with the agricultural produce because we are unable to transport anything.

Vehicles are available to move Israeli products, but the locally produced goods are piled up on the ground.

Question: What about the reports we hear concerning shooting by the Israeli forces?

Answer: Israeli troops frequently shoot over the heads of the people to scare and terrorize them.

Question: Are the reports of the use of police dogs true?

Answer: There are no dogs at the bridge. However, police dogs have been used on people lined up at Government House (in Sidon) who wait for hours to get passes. In many cases the dogs scare the civilians away, or prevent them from approaching the offices where the permits are being issued.

Question: It sounds like the situation is very, very bad.

Answer: What can I say to describe the situation? In fact, conditions are worse than in the Middle Ages, worse than Hitler at his peak in Germany; they are even worse than the brutality of the barbarians when they attacked Europe. The whole thing blew up in our face. We have reached a dead end, and only God can get us out of the mess we are in. We are steadfast and patient, and we are advising people not to emigrate, because Israel is doing all it can to get the people to leave the land, and it is planning in the future to establish settlements in south Lebanon.

Question: What is the response of the people? Are they taking your advice, or are they leaving?

Answer: Many people listen, and their sympathies are with us. However, as the saying goes, "patience has its limits." When they face hunger they realize it is useless. All these devices have been introduced in order to destroy and fragment Lebanon and to separate and break off the south from the rest of the country.

Question: If the situation calms down, do you expect this emigration from the south to halt?

Answer: Not for a long time, because the people have had it. In the south these days even the landowners and rich people are really in bad shape. Losses run into hundreds of millions of pounds and, in fact, cannot be accurately estimated. The loss in citrus fruits alone in the south has been estimated at no less than 250 million pounds, and the future is totally unpredictable.

Question: What are the implications of these measures, and why were they introduced at this particular time?

Answer: My view on this issue differs from the views of most of my fellow Lebanese. I believe that this is virtually the same scheme which they (Israelis) used in the West Bank. Now they are trying it here. They are using the same methods that they used in the past, but in a harsher manner. The attacks on them and the security incidents involving their troops are merely being used as a pretext.

In the past there were similar attacks on their forces, but they did not take such measures as blocking roads in the south and obstructing the movement of goods. Obviously, the whole issue is not one of security; this is a well-studied plan that is being executed day after day.

Question: Do you fear that the south has started to become a "North Bank" for Israel?

Answer: This is exactly what I believe. I strongly fear the the south has started to be transformed into a "North Bank".

Question: Israel pulled out of the central mountains ostensibly to cut down on the casualties it was sustaining in attacks.

Answer: Well, its casualties have been increasing, not decreasing.

Question: The recent measures introduced in the south were given the same justification, but the attacks continue. Are the Israeli measures politically inspired rather than security-motivated?

Answer: This is a political plan which is simply being executed in stages.

Question: How will the exchange of prisoners between Israel and the PLO affect the situation in the south?

Answer: It is difficult to accurately predict the impact of the exchange of prisoners on the situation in the south because this arrangement was concluded between the PLO and Israel, and was not the result of Lebanese efforts or Lebanese coordination.

This, undoubtedly, will greatly alleviate the suffering of people who had children, husbands, brothers or sisters in detention, and will certainly boost their morale. Politically, however, I doubt that it will have an impact because, as I pointed out, the exchange was the result of an agreement between the PLO and Israel, and was not the fruit of Lebanese efforts.

Question: Can I understand from what you said that the exchange of prisoners will affect the morale of the people?

Answer: Undoubtedly. It will also give them hope in the possibility of (Israeli) withdrawal, God willing.

Question: What was the result of the broad-based meeting of southern organizations held by the preparatory committee of the "National Conference on the South"?

Answer: In the first place, the closure of the access routes was strongly rejected, and the Lebanese Government was urgently requested to exert every possible effort through available diplomatic channels to bring pressure to bear on Israel to end its arbitrary measures in south Lebanon.

In the second place, we called on the deputies who represent constituencies of the south in Parliament to serve as a permanent committee that would be responsible for deciding on the steps which should be taken to resist the Israeli occupation and get rid of it, and on ways of ending these arbitrary measures.

Question: What position was taken to stop the wave of arrests and avert an economic disaster?

Answer: The same position was adopted on stopping the arrests and on putting an end to the economic havoc created by the dumping of Israeli goods on the market without the paying of customs fees.

Question: Are most of the people who were recently arrested Lebanese?

Answer: Yes; the Lebanese are mostly arrested in night raids. For every one Palestinian arrested, nine Lebanese are being arrested.

Question: Under what pretext are the Lebanese being arrested?

Answer: No excuses or reasons are given. They have informers who simply tell them, "arrest these people." They also have informers who serve as their agents in the distribution of their goods, and so on.

Question: How would you describe the resistance of the people of the south to what is going on, and in what way are the political parties in the south involved in the confrontation?

Answer: In my city of Sidon, which has a dominant position in the south, I have heard southerners repeatedly say that they rejected all these measures and that they would stand fast and would remain firm. They also say that they will resist occupation with every available legitimate means — I say with every legitimate means at their disposal.

On the political level, so far they (Israelis) have not scored much success. Only a very small number of people have collaborated with them

Question: Is the situation similar in other areas of the south?

Answer: In nearly all parts of the south, especially in the cities, such as An-Nabatiyah and Tyre.

Question: In view of what has been happening, to what extent do you think you will be able to implement the decisions you adopted at the meeting?

Answer: We can wait for a week, at the most. After that, we will have to adopt much stronger positions.

Question: What could that involve?

Answer: I cannot tell you right now, because this issue concerns all the deputies of the south who will meet to work out details. For the present, we have urged the public not to apply for permits. Tomorrow, we might ask them to stop all dealings with them — in fact we have already urged the public not to deal with them. Tomorrow we might stage an open strike that will paralyze all movement in the area. We must keep on alerting the people against dealing with Israel.

Question: Are you satisfied with the way in which the government and the other regions of the country and other Lebanese groups have reacted to events in the south?

Answer: Well, as I said to President al-Jumayyil, we in the south have been cut off and our separation from you reflects on you. So far, we are still demanding action, and I cannot say that I am satisfied until I see some tangible moves put into effect.

Question: Could you tell us something about the militias that Israel is organizing in the south?

Answer: Israel is trying to set up a so-called "national guard" in cities and villages, drawn from all the communities. In Sidon, Israeli efforts in this respect have not been successful. In other parts of the south, only a very small number of people have responded to these efforts.

Question: Do you think that tampering with the 17 May agreement could possibly lead to even more suffering for the south than what it faces at present?

Answer: Actually, the 17 May agreement was discussed by the reconciliation conference (in Geneva) and the president of the republic was given a mandate to resolve the issue. Every view we might present at this stage would be a premature anticipation of the president's attempts to resolve the problem.

As such, I would rather not answer your question, especially since Israel already violated the accord when it laid down the condition, after reaching an agreement with Lebanon, that it would not leave until all Syrian and Palestinian forces left Lebanon. This condition did not exist, but Israel laid it down and wants to implement it by force. Unprogrammed withdrawals were not envisaged in the agreement, but it withdrew from the mountains without a timetable for full withdrawals, and thus caused a terrible fight in the area from which it pulled out.

Question: What hopes do you place on a possible Israeli withdrawal in the coming stage?

Answer: Any Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon is a gain. We are anxious to see it withdraw to the international border. Lebanon cannot be liberated or revived, neither can it have any rest until after the Israelis withdraw.

Question: Would you like to make any special appeal to the government or to the rest of the Lebanese?

Answer: Yes, I would like to call on all Lebanese, especially the government, to persist with efforts to stop these Israeli practices and measures in the south and to end the occupation.

Question: Is it true that the Israeli forces cut telephone lines sometimes?

Answer: Sometimes telephone services are disrupted, but we do not know who is responsible for the disruption.

Beirut Cites Talas on 'Fate' of U.S. Pilots

NC051717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] In the first official Syrian comment on the fate of the two [U.S.] pilots captured by the Syrians, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said that U.S. pilot First Lieutenant Mark Lange has died, and that his body will be handed to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus for shipment to his own country. As for the other pilot, namely, First Lieutenant Robert Goodman, he is still alive. Talas said that he is in very good condition and has suffered no wounds.

When asked if the captive pilot will be treated as a prisoner of war, Talas said that he will be treated better than that. He added: He will be shown to journalists soon after the completion of his interrogation. In reply to another question, Talas said the U.S. pilot will be released when the war ends and when the Americans leave Lebanon.

This statement by Talas was regarded as the first official Syrian indication that a state of war exists between the United States and Syria.

Al-Asad Sends Message to World Leaders on Raids

JN051906 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent written messages to the Arab heads of state and to many world leaders on the latest regional developments in light of the recent Israeli-U.S. escalation. In these messages, the president explained both the dangers posed by U.S. intervention in Lebanon, and the danger that it might grow into direct military aggression against Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation following the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement. The president highlighted the close connection between Israeli and U.S. interests — a connection inherent in this agreement — the immense resources and power of the United States, which will be used to promote Israel's aggressive and expansionist programs, and the threat the agreement poses to the security and interests of the Arab nation and of world peace.

President Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's determination to preserve its independence, defend its territory, and protect its national and pan-Arab interests against any possible aggression.

Talas Statement on 'Just War'

JN052032 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2018 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 5 Dec (SANA) — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and minister of defense, has made the following statement:

"The shelling of our forces' positions in Lebanon by U.S. planes yesterday morning is part of the U.S.-Israeli design reached during the visit to Washington last week by the Israeli prime minister and defense minister. Our air defense units' confrontation of these U.S. planes was in accord with our legitimate right to self-defense, because we are waging a just war against the unfair aggression launched against our people and the Arab nation by U.S. imperialism and Zionism. Our Armed Forces will always confront any foreign air force flying over our positions."

'Official Source' on Israeli-U.S. Agreements

JN060936 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Dec (SAN) — An official source has declared that:

Israeli-U.S. agreements of a strategic nature were reached during the recent visit that enemy Prime Minister Shamir paid to Washington. These agreements constitute a serious development in the regional situation and a new turning point in U.S. policy against the Arab nation. In accordance with these agreements, the political, military, and economic potential and capability of the United States have been linked to the aggressive and expansionist interests of the Israeli enemy.

These agreements, with their political, military, economic, and security obligations, represent a serious threat to the Arab nation's security and pan-Arab interests, a prelude to wider U.S. military involvement in the Middle East, and a direct encouragement to the Israeli enemy to escalate its aggression against the Arabs and continue its hostile and expansionist policies.

The Syrian Government warns the Arab governments and masses of the gravity of this serious development in U.S. policy toward the region, and calls upon all Arabs to shoulder their responsibilities and confront this new situation, as the only choice now is either to protect our pan-Arab interests, safeguard our dignity, and defend our land and existence or have the region fall under the umbrella of the new U.S.-Israeli alliance.

The Syrian Government views the reports concerning these agreements with great anxiety, and affirms that it is studying the ways and means that must be adopted to redress the regional imbalance should the U.S. Government insist on proceeding with its policy of hostility toward the Arabs.

AL-BA'TH on 'Decision To Defend Ourselves'

JN060801 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] *AL-BA'TH* says: Those observers who are extremely interested in the U.S. raids on our forces in Lebanon the day before yesterday and in the direct Syrian Arab reply to them — which resulted in the downing of three U.S. planes and the capture of one pilot — expected this first confrontation to provide the United States with an opportunity to reassess its stand and check its calculations before making another decision as serious as the one to attack Syrian positions. They also expected the United States to realize that the logic of force — which it is using against those who do not bow to the will of U.S. aggression — will, at some point, bring the world to the brink of a large-scale international confrontation, the consequences of which cannot be controlled.

This expectation, however, did not materialize. Soon after returning from his winter resort at Camp David, Reagan announced to the American people and the world that U.S. raids on Syrian positions will continue and swore to make a decision to that effect. In this manner he confirmed his intentions, which are no longer a secret to anyone.

What is strange about Reagan's announcement is that he has come to believe that through the logic of force — which he is brandishing in more than one part of the world, particularly in the wake of his invasion of Grenada — only the decisions of the United States shall be implemented, and that they alone can achieve the necessary deterrence in the Middle East. He has also come to believe that decisions made by others to exercise their right of self-defense and to reply in the appropriate manner are of no consequence, and do not merit being taken into consideration as long as the U.S. military forces — in the mind of the U.S. President — are everything in this world, and there is no other force capable of bridling or checking their willfulness.

What took place in Lebanon the day before yesterday — with all its inherent dangers and consequences — confirms that there is no unilateral U.S. decision which can act like magic and which absolutely must be implemented by the United States. It also confirms that there is a Syrian decision, one which we never claimed could act like magic, but one which will be sufficient to allow us to defend ourselves, safeguard our dignity, and not force us to relinquish our principles. Why should the U.S. President then vow to make a similar decision when he knows that a Syrian counter-decision is ready? Ours is a decision which we shall do our best to implement on the basis of the principles and national and pan-Arab values that are known to everyone. It is the decision to defend ourselves, which no one can deny us and which no one — even if he is president of the United States — has the right to ignore.

Commentary on U.S. Belief in 'Law of Jungle'

JN051627 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Do people have to forget their minds, intelligence, and consciousness in order to be able to listen to the statements being made by U.S. officials — including President Reagan, Eagleburger, and Weinberger — concerning the raids launched by U.S. warplanes against Syrian positions in Lebanon? These U.S. officials assume that the world is merely a jungle without laws, norms, rights, and traditions, and that the law of the jungle should prevail in the world. Moreover, they also assume that people cannot judge, analyze, or reach conclusions, and that they will accept the very opposite of things. U.S. officials describe their acts of military aggression in Lebanon and their raids against Syrian forces as defensive actions. People would have to lose their minds in order to believe these allegations, which might have dangerous consequences that could impact peace in the Middle East and perhaps in other regions as well.

The United States is thousands of kilometers from Lebanon and the region. Nevertheless, it claims rights that do not belong to it and interferes in affairs outside its domain. It also interferes in other people's affairs and tries to impose its will by force, in violation of the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions and in violation of international law. U.S. officials also falsify the facts when they allege that their acts of aggression are in fact defensive in nature. It is known that Syria neither went to the borders of the United States, sent its planes to bomb U.S. forces, nor declared war on that country. It is the United States which sent its Armed Forces, it is the United States which sent its threats and warnings to Syria, it is the United States which sent its warplanes to provoke us and launch aggression, and it is the United States which sent its bombers to launch air raids on other people's forces. The U.S. rulers are completely responsible for the consequences of these actions and for other, similar actions that the U.S. Administration might take.

Antiaircraft weapons are defensive weapons, and they are the same weapons that Syria used to defend its forces against a direct act of U.S. aggression. However, the fighter planes and bombers which the United States sent to conduct its air raids were on an illegal mission of aggression, because there is nothing in the relationship between the United States and Syria that justifies resorting to force. The use of force by U.S. rulers proves the extent of their indifference to international laws, agreements, and norms. It also reflects the extent of the moral deterioration that has befallen the U.S. rulers and their policy. The U.S. President's allegations concerning this act of aggression — which he personally ordered and which had been decided upon earlier in the U.S. National Security Council — together with his announcement that the United States will reply to any attacks against its forces show the extent to which the U.S. Administration is playing with fire and driving matters to the brink.

Any rational person would certainly ask Reagan: By what right does the United States send its planes to circle over other people and then claim that the right of other people to defend themselves constitutes an attack on its forces requiring retaliatory aggressive military actions in the name of defense? What would President Reagan say were a country to send its planes on reconnaissance flights over the United States or even over U.S. bases in the FRG and then claim that the U.S. forces' right to defend themselves constituted an act which required sending bombers to attack those U.S. forces? Sending U.S. planes to overfly Syrian positions is a deliberate act of provocation and aggression, and the Syrian forces will most certainly defend themselves against any provocative or aggressive act. To justify this act of aggression, President Reagan declared that the United States does not want a military confrontation with Syria. This statement must be proven through a practical step on the ground, because Syria also does not want a military dispute with the United States. Sunday's incident was an act of aggression by the United States, and Syria was exercising its right to self-defense. Syria is also determined to defend itself with all the means at its disposal, and will seek all assistance that might bolster its intrinsic capability for defense.

Syria previously warned of the danger posed by U.S. military concentrations in the region, and of the grave consequences that might result were the Multinational Force to depart from its mission in Lebanon, become involved in Lebanese affairs, and be used to impose the U.S.-Israeli will on the Arabs. In its message to the UN Security Council yesterday, Syria warned of the grave consequences of the aggressive U.S. action against the Syrian forces, an action which came following the aggressive agreement concluded between the Reagan administration and the Shamir government within the framework of U.S.-Israeli military coordination. This Syrian warning should be heard throughout the world. Official U.S. involvement — to the extent of military cooperation against the Arabs — will not be tolerated by the Arabs, regardless of the cost; nor would such a development make a positive contribution to Arab-U.S. relations, international relations, or the issue of world peace.

Spokesman on Downing of Israeli Planes

JN061224 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has reported the following:

At 1135 on 6 December 1983, an Israeli pilotless reconnaissance plane overflew our forces' positions in eastern Al-Biqa' in Lebanon, while a second pilotless plane overflew our forces' positions in the area known as Kanakir. Our air defense units confronted them, shooting down the first plane in the 'Anjar area, and the second in the Dayr al-'Adass area.

Lebanese Weekly Cited on 'Joint Leadership'

NC060941 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 6 (AFP) — A six-man joint leadership was set up to run Syria's current affairs after the hospitalization on November 13 of President Hafiz al-Asad, the Lebanese weekly *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWAYLI reported today,* quoting diplomatic sources. According to the weekly, the group is made up of

— Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam,

— Deputy Secretary-General of the Ba'th Party National Command 'Abdallah al-Ahmar,

— Army Chief of Staff General Hikmat Ash-Shihabi,

— Generals 'Ali Haydar and Muhammad al-Khuli, who head, respectively, military intelligence and the air force,

— And the president's brother Colonel Rif'at Al-Asad, who heads the army's elite Defence Brigades.

The weekly said the group was reportedly set up to handle everyday party and military affairs. The report said the joint leadership had the support of Ba'th Party and military leaders "to form a united entity, with all members mindful of the plots being hatched against Syria."

The group "reaffirmed that Syria's policy was right, and that it was determined to pursue this policy and confront U.S.-Israeli threats," *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI* said.

But the magazine *ASH-SHIRA'* said the constitution of a joint leadership to be chaired by President al-Asad and the appointment of two vice-presidents to ease his workload were expected to figure on the agenda of the forthcoming Ba'th Party congress in Damascus.

President al-Asad was admitted to hospital on November 13, officially for an appendicitis operation. He made his first reappearance in public on November 30 with a visit to a recently inaugurated bridge named after him in Damascus.

General Talas on Soviet 'Experts,' Lebanon

JN051217 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 3 Dec 83 pp 28, 29

[Interview with General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Armed Forces and minister of defense, by the *AL-MUSTAQBAL correspondent in Damascus, Yasir 'Abd* Rabbuh — date not given]

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Armed Forces and minister of defense, is a man who possesses a poetic spirit rarely found in poets themselves. He reads and writes poetry, loves and participates in sports, and has written many books.

When I visited him in his house on the quiet Ar-Rawdah Street in Damascus, he was busy preparing his new book on flowers, their origin, and cultivation. According to Abu Firas [Mustafa Talas], this book will be published early next year. He is personally selecting the pictures and choosing the captions for this book. The truth is that the man astonished me, and I conducted the following interview with him.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: General, I expected to meet you at the front wearing a helmet and with a gun in your hand. I am astonished to find you talking about flowers in such a limpid manner.

Gen Talas: This shows that we are prepared for anything. The one who carries arms must not ignore beauty. Flowers are among the most splendid and beautiful things.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: There have recently been rumors to the effect that Soviet experts in Syria will soon be leaving. How true are these rumors?

Gen Talas: These rumors reflect the hopes of those who spread them. I would not be revealing a secret were I to say that some of these experts have been replaced because the USSR rotates its experts once every 2 years as part of a routine procedure.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It has also been rumored that there are a great many Soviet experts in Syria. Some say that there are 5,000, while others that there are tens of thousands. Exactly how many experts are there?

Gen Talas: That is a military secret which I cannot reveal. However, I can say that the numbers which have been published are very much exaggerated.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is it true that you recently paid several secret visits to Moscow?

Gen Talas: The relationship which exists between Syria and the USSR is a very solid one, and so is our bilateral cooperation. It is natural for me to visit Moscow from time to time, and since most of my visits are working visits, I do not see that there is any need to publicize them. You know very well that official visits are the only ones reported by the media.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Has the Syrian president paid any secret visits to Moscow recently?

Gen Talas: Only President Hafiz al-Asad can answer that question.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Israel called its reserves up at the time and you did the same. One hears the beating of war drums in Syria and Tel Aviv. Do you expect that a military confrontation will take place soon?

Gen Talas: Israel is an entity based on aggression. It was established to carry out aggression. Therefore, the possibilities of confrontation with it always exist and we always expect it to carry out aggression. As you see, we are prepared to defend our soil.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: In his interview with *AL-MUSTAQBAL* last week, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that Syria seeks to establish a strategic balance between itself and Israel. How can this be achieved while the Arabs' military power, if united, might surpass that of Israel?

Gen Talas: We in Syria know that Israel will not permit Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Libya, which have an advanced military capability, to reach the theater of military operations should any battle take place. That is why Syria seeks to establish a strategic balance between itself and Israel; and this balance will curb any eventual act of aggression by Israel against Syria.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: However, you know that the United States will not allow Israel to sustain a military defeat.

Gen Talas: We are aware that the United States opposes Arab rights. Every U.S. president has opposed the Palestinian people. The United States views the Palestinian people as a herd of cattle. Otherwise, how do you explain U.S. behavior when it looked with satisfaction upon the slaughter of Palestinian and Lebanese resistance forces during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year? The United States wants the Arab nation to live in the Arab homeland as the red Indians are living in the United States. All this would take place while Israel is master of the region. Of course, we reject this U.S. logic. We will neither kneel nor become red Indians in our own countries.

AL-MUSTAQBAL This means that you reject Reagan's initiative and any peace initiative?

Gen Talas: Peace is one of our demands. However, we reject capitulation. As-Sadat did not sign a peace initiative at Camp David. He signed an initiative for capitulation. We saw how the United States treated President Husni Mubarak when he tried to raise a free voice in protest of what is taking place in Lebanon. The United States subdued him, and Israel too, with its statements and threats. Through the Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed on 17 May, the United States sought to make Lebanon like Egypt. From this premise, we rejected both that agreement and all U.S. solutions, because every one of them is in the interest of Israel, and not in the interest of Arab rights. The United States wants us to live in this region as its slaves and those of Israel. It will never achieve this. I want all the wise men in the Arab world to look at Egypt, the weight it used to have, its greatness before the Camp David agreements, and what it is now.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Syria is internationally accused of having trained the team of Lebanese and Iranian Shi'ites who carried out suicide operations against the U.S. Marines and French paratroopers in Beirut and against the Israeli forces in Tyre. How true are these accusations?

Gen Talas: The United States and Israel are using these accusations to deprive the men of the Lebanese resistance and the heroes involved in this great heroic act. Israel and the Multinational Force in Lebanon could not believe that such heroic, courageous, and great men exist in Lebanon. From a position of responsibility I say that the heroic Lebanese resistance was behind the blows dealt in Beirut and Tyre. The policy of oppression implemented by Israel in the south, by the United States in Beirut, and the usurpation of Arab rights were the causes which made the heroes in Lebanon carry out these commando operations, which stupified Israel and the Multinational Force. Had the Palestinian resistance forces resorted to such tactics, Israel would never have existed. Had a similar operation taken place in the West Bank or Gaza, Israel would have reassessed all its plans, just as it reassessed its plans when it decided to withdraw to the Al-Awwali River, believing that this new line would protect it from the Lebanese heroes and the men of the Lebanese resistance.

The Lebanese resistance forces represent the modern school of armed struggle, and those who drove their cars toward the Israelis and the Multinational Force are pioneers in the subject of how to offer sacrifices in this world. They have decided to die so that the cause of their country may triumph.

President Bashir al-Jumayyil was killed by Israel because Begin asked him to conclude agreements of submission in Israel's interest. He rejected this, because he did not wish to become an Israeli tool in Lebanon. That is why they killed him.

His brother Amin al-Jumayyil, the current Lebanese president, went to the United States and there proclaimed his allegiance to that that country. What has the United States done for him?

I relate this story and wonder: How could President Amin al-Jumayyil agree to sign the 17 May agreement? In short, I say: The aim of the agreement is to detach Lebanon from the Arab family, destroy its identity, and cancel its economy so that the Israeli economy might prosper, making the Lebanese people the slaves of Israel or perhaps forcing them to leave. At this point, the friends of the United States here in the Arab world must realize and take heed of how the United States treated Husni

Mubarak and Amin al-Jumayyil. The United States serves only the strong.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: General, we agree that the Arab world is now quite badly fragmented, and may even be passing through an era of Arab decadence. Do you believe that a conflict between Syria and Israel will restore the unity of Arab ranks, as happened on the eve of the 1973 October war?

Gen Talas: Arab solidarity will become a reality the moment a military conflict erupts. I don't doubt that for a moment. The heroism of the Lebanese people, their greatness, and their sacrifices will be an incentive to restore the Arab nation's unity and revive its glory. By the way, I would like to comment on *AL-MUSTAQBAL* itself, and I hope these remarks will be published because they represent my personal opinion. Some of *AL-MUSTAQBAL*'s writers, whose truthfulness and patriotism I do not doubt — including Muhammad al-Maghut and Paul Sha'ul — tend to drive the people to despair. Why don't they write about the Lebanese resistance? Why don't they mention the great man who sat in his own coffin and drove his car, filled with all the tools of death, against the Israeli occupation soldiers in Tyre? That would be a way of recording the most glorious epic of martyrdom and sacrifice. The learned men of Judaism used to talk about the hope of establishing the state of Israel at a time when the Jews were dispersed in all corners of the world. Al-Maghut and Sha'ul are driving the Arab reader to bow before the United States. I wish I had read one article by them on Arab heroism and the Lebanese resistance. Why don't they make the Arab citizen optimistic, so that this nation may triumph and repulse U.S.-Israeli aggression?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Syrian-French relations now seem to be in a bad state, despite your several visits to France. What is the reason for this?

Gen Talas: I believe that with the death of General Charles de Gaulle — God's mercy be upon him — independent French decisionmaking ended. President Francois Mitterrand coordinates his policy with the United States and, together with the United States, wants to subjugate the Arab nation. He is personally subservient to the United States. By the way, I wonder: Why did Mitterrand not send his naval force and the aircraft carrier *Foch* to prevent both the Sabra and Shatila massacres and the destruction of Beirut by U.S. arms? France today is a prisoner of U.S. policy. This is confirmed by the fact that France has resumed supplying Iraq with weapons to perpetuate the Gulf war. I now claim that were it not for the Gulf war, the Arabs would today be in a state of strategic balance with Israel. However, this is a mad war aimed at exhausting two countries — Iraq and Iran — that are hostile to Israel.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Some people in Lebanon accuse Syria of having territorial and expansionist ambitions there. What is your comment on this?

Gen Talas: I assure you that Syria will withdraw from Lebanon immediately after the departure of the last foreign soldier from its territory. As for those who speak of Syria's dreams, I would like to say that we support Arab unity. We want to be united with Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, and with anyone who seeks unity. However, we have no ambitions at all. I repeat: Syria will withdraw from Lebanon after the withdrawl of Israel and foreign forces.

Muhsin Bilal Meets U.S. Congressman 5 Dec

JN052036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Dr Muhsin Bilal, head of the Arab and foreign relations committee in the People's Assembly, received U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall at noon today. During their meeting, Dr Bilal explained that the U.S. raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon confirm that the United States is determined to play the role of a superpower vis-a-vis Syria and the role of protector and friend vis-a-vis Israel.

He added that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, will never accept humiliation from any side and will defend itself from the U.S. aircraft carriers now stationed off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts. He also noted that the United States has a mistaken understanding of Syrian-Soviet relations, stressing that the USSR is friendly toward Syria so that it may defend itself. Bilal voiced Syria's concern at statements made by the U.S. President and his secretary of state regarding the continuing onslaught and aggression against Syria and its forces. He asserted that Syria will never accept humiliation.

Dr Bilal added that dispatching sophisticated U.S. weapons and missiles to Israel will not serve the cause of peace in the region, because the United States will be fully responsible for the escalation of the situation there, particularly after signing the strategic agreement with Israel.

The U.S. congressman expressed his understanding of the Middle East problem, noting that the United States is being subjected to pressure by the Zionist lobby and is also facing a number of other serious political problems.

Party Official Meets With Bulgarian Delegation

JN051531 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 5 Dec (SANA) — Comrade 'Atiyyah al-Judih, chief of the Ba'th Party National Command Culture and Indoctrination Bureau, met here last night with the Bulgarian Communist Party delegation headed by Petur (?Netchkov), chief of the BCP Central Committee Culture Departments.

Both sides reviewed their work and plans in the spheres of culture and party indoctrination, and asserted the importance of exchanging their experiences. They also discussed the current political situation in the region and the dangerous U.S. military escalation against Syria.

The Bulgarian party delegation arrived in Damascus last night for a 1-week visit at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

40 Casualties in Jerusalem Bus Explosion 6 Dec

TA061144 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1140 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] So far, about 40 casualties have been reported from the attack that took place a short time ago in Jerusalem. Some of them have been wounded seriously. The wounded were taken by Red Star of David ambulances and mobile intensive care units to the Hadassah and Sha'are Zedeq Hospitals. It appears that most of the casualties are passengers of the bus in which the explosive charge went off, while it was travelling along Herzl Boulevard in Jerusalem.

3 Killed in Explosion

TA061224 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1217 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Three people were killed in the attack in Jerusalem. This was reported a short time ago by the commander of the Jerusalem police district, Deputy Commander Rahamim Corfu. The Jerusalem hospitals have reported dozens of wounded, some of them in serious condition.

Israel Reports Drone Downed Over Al-Biqa'

TA061221 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1218 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A pilotless drone was downed today from the sky over Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon. In reply to a question by our military correspondent 'Arad Nir, the IDF spokesman confirmed that a pilotless drone, which had been on a patrol over Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon, was downed by a hit from a Syrian missile.

Shamir Meets Vance, Comments on Settlements

TA060606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister has stated that in negotiations with Jordan, Israel would be prepared to discuss the fate of the settlements. He was talking to former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the former secretary of state noted that if the prime minister seriously meant what he said, there had been progress in Israel's stand. The prime minister responded: We are serious. At the same time, he emphasized that the right of Jews to live throughout all of Eretz Yisra'el must be preserved. According to Shamir, this demand was no obstacle to peace, since the number of Jews in settlements in the territories was minimal as opposed to the number of Arabs.

Office Denies Settlements Statement

TA060720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] It was reported by the prime minister's office this morning that Yitzhaq Shamir did not tell Cyrus Vance that Israel was prepared to negotiate on the settlements, but stressed that their establishment did not contradict the Camp David accords or the autonomy negotiations. A source close to the prime minister stated that it is Shamir's position that the Jordanians can raise any issue in the negotiations, including that of the settlements. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer had reported earlier that Shamir had said, in a talk with Vance, that Israel was prepared to discuss settlements with Jordan. Vance had responded that if Israel was serious on this, it denoted progress in its position, and Shamir's answer was: We are serious.

Shamir on Syrians, Settlements

TA051118 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Former U.S. secretary of State Cyrus Vance has justified the U.S. air strike against the Syrians in Lebanon yesterday. Vance met with Prime Minister Shamir in Jerusalem this morning. The Syrians behave insolently and provoke the United States because they are supported by the Soviet Union. This support includes recently received sophisticated arms. This remark was made by Prime Minister Shamir in his talk with Cyrus Vance. In reaction to Vance's claim that settlements constitute a de facto annexation of the territories, the prime minister said there is no intention to annex Judaea and Samaria.

Shamir Receives Shultz Message on Al-Jumayyil Talks

TA060732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Secretary of State George Shultz has reported to Prime Minister Shamir on the talks held in Washington with Lebanese President al-Jumayyil. Details are reported by our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

[Schiffer — live or recorded] The United States and Israel flatly deny the existence of military coordination between them on Syria, but do admit that there is political coordination. Thus Secretary of State George Shultz hastened to report to the prime minister on the talks held in Washington with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Principally, efforts will continue to expand the base of Al-Jumayyil's government, adding elements closer to Syrian influence. Israel will be asked to enable government representatives in Beirut to take on responsibility in areas under IDF control in southern Lebanon.

The charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Israel, who handed the message to the prime minister, also met yesterday with the director general of the Foreign Ministry David Kimche, and informed him of the details of the U.S. planes downed over Lebanon. Political sources in Jerusalem believe that the United States will continue to react forcefully to Syrian provocation in Lebanon. However, steps are being taken concurrently by the United States to bring the Syrians to the negotiating table, with broad hints that there is certainly something to talk about, and that the United States will support the legitimate interests of Syria in Lebanon.

As for political coordination between the United States and Israel, the two countries are still having difficulty in summing up the details of the talks held in Washington by Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens. Jerusalem is insisting on detailed and binding summaries [sikumim], and Washington believes that less binding conclusions should be sufficient. It has been learned that Major General Menahem Meron, director general of the Defense Ministry, will head the Israeli team on the joint committee dealing with implementation of the decisions reached in the talks. This committee will convene in the United States in mid-January.

Shamir Denies Military Commitments to U.S.

TA051456 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1449 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset a short time ago that Israel did not undertake any military commitments whatsoever during his talks in Washington. Shamir described reports published in the wake of his visit in the United States as false rumors and unfounded interpretations. According to him, nothing agreed upon in the talks was concealed by both sides, the United States and Israel.

Following the prime minister's announcement, a political debate began in the Knesset. The first speaker on behalf of the Alignment, MK Abba Eban, emphasized that Israel's sole interest is to safeguard its northern border. Eban said that peace could be guaranteed in the Galilee through a strategy of deterrence from within Israeli territory and that no Israeli interest whatsoever calls for a war between Israel and Syria. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent Sha'ul Stav.

More on Shamir's Address

TA051540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Report by Knesset correspondent Sha'ul Stav — live]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir began his remarks [before the Knesset] by referring to last night's events in Beirut.

[Begin Shamir recording] I would like to express my deep regret over the death of the U.S. soldiers in Lebanon yesterday. These soldiers were sent to Lebanon to maintain peace and they are being attacked and killed by the enemies of peace [indistinct heckling from the hall] who will not allow peace, stability and normal life to return to Lebanon. [end recording]

The prime minister reported to the Knesset about the talks he and the defense minister conducted in Washington. He said that a political-military working team composed of Israeli and U.S. representatives would hold its first meeting in January. It will discuss possible steps to achieve the common goals shared by Israel and the United States. The working team will also discuss the performance of joint maneuvers and the stationing of U.S. equipment in Israel. The military cooperation, Shamir said, will carry a deterrent weight. The stationing of U.S. equipment in Israel will also carry an economic value, he added.

[Begin Shamir recording] The US. willingness to help strengthen Israel in the security and economic fields found its expression in several important agreements. The grant share of the military aid was considerably increased, from $1.7 billion — half of it as a grant and the other half as a loan — to $1.4 billion, all of it as a grant. Positive agreements were reached regarding the U.S. undertaking to purchase many products from Israeli industries for the U.S. Armed Forces, within the framework of the offset [last word in English] and that of the memorandum of understanding.

Also, we were allowed to sell airport and harbor services to the U.S. forces. It was agreed that the equivalent of $250 million from the aid funds would be changed into shekels to be used in Israel. [end recording]

The prime minister referred to the reports about secret agreements on military cooperation between Israel and the United States in Lebanon.

[Begin Shamir recording] Many false reports and unfounded interpretations were spread regarding the achievements reached in Washington. Nothing was agreed upon in those talks that was not made public. Israel did not undertake any military commitments whatsoever, as certain panic-mongers have been claiming. [end recording]

Yitzhaq Shamir summed up his remarks by saying that fears that Israel might get embroiled in the wake of deepening cooperation with the United States are totally unfounded. This cooperation is by way of a blessing to Israel, the United States and the entire region.

The Knesset debate is still underway. The government will only sum it up on Wednesday, once the Knesset has discussed the nonconfidence motion submitted by the HADASH faction.

'Fertile Dialogue' With U.S.

TA051811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Report by Hayim Zissovitz — recorded]

[Excerpts] The military events in Lebanon over the last few days were only briefly addressed by Yitzhaq Shamir in his speech to the Knesset today when he expressed sorrow about the death of eight U.S. Marines in the outskirts of Beirut last night. The talks he and the defense minister held in the United States were, according to Shamir, held in a period of goodwill following a quite difficult period in relations between the two countries.

[Begin Shamir recording] The Syrian threat, based on the ample Soviet equipment flowing into Syria; the extreme and acute Syrian hostility to the United States and to the West at large; and the large number of sophisticated weapons the Soviet Union funnels into that country created the right background for the fertile dialogue which took place between us and the United States last week. [end recording]

The prime minister reiterated his call to the Egyptian president to resume the autonomy talks and he urged King Husayn to join those talks.

Israeli-U.S. Agreement on Lebanese Issue Reported

TA041005 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Ya'aqov Erez, 'Oded Granot, and Shraga Meckel]

[Excerpt] Israel and the United States have decided on full political coordination in Lebanon and a firm policy against the Syrians and the terrorist organizations active under their protection in Lebanon. In the talks in Washington the Americans accepted Jerusalem's position, as expressed in the Foreign Ministry's position paper, that there are signs the Syrian stand in Lebanon is weakening and Damascus is losing the initiative.

Israel and the United States decided to take advantage of this development which stems, among other things, from domestic events in Syria and President al-Asad's illness, in order to increase the political pressure on Syria and make it give up its intransigent positions on Lebanon.

One of the operational recommendations which were included in the Israeli position paper and apparently adopted by the U.S. Administration in the talks with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, is that the Lebanese president should be convinced to adopt a firm policy and to demonstrate an unwillingness to make concessions in face of the Syrian pressures. Israel and the United States agree that it is not the right time to discuss Israeli withdrawal plans now, while there is no Syrian willingness for a parallel withdrawal.

Fears Expressed on Agreements

TA060847 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 83 pp 1,2

[Report by Tuvya Mendelson]

[Text] While the prime minister and other official Israeli spokesmen are working to ease fears that the situation in the north may deteriorate to the point of war with Syria, knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem increasingly fear an appreciable escalation in the tension between Syria and the United States, a development that could have grave implications for Israel.

At the same time, various political elements and sources are increasingly saying that one of the results of the Shamir-Arens talks in Washington is a noticeable increase in Israeli involvement in Lebanon and, in fact, a return to the policy that preceded the decision to withdraw to the Al-Awwali line.

In the political statement he made to the Knesset yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir repeated his emphasis that no secret agreement had been signed between Israel and the United States during talks he and the defense minister held in Washington. Shamir said that Israel had not taken any military commitment upon itself.

After the prime minister's speech to the Knesset, authoritative political sources said that the U.S. action against Syria in Lebanon had been controlled and aimed at putting heavy pressure on the Syrians to agree to remove their forces from Lebanon. These sources stressed that this was a question of political pressure on Syria, and that the U.S. Navy's effort was an "accompanying action." The sources rejected the assessment of other sources in Jerusalem that the most outstanding practical result of the Shamir-Arens talks in Washington was an increase in Israeli involvement in Lebanon.

However, according to knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem, it seems that even if there is no written agreement on this matter, it is now clear that Israel is committed to act in Lebanon in close coordination with the Americans. As will be recalled, the United States was opposed to Israel's decision to withdraw to the Al-Awwali line, and this was also expressed in the Shamir-Arens talks. For some time now U.S. spokesmen have been expressing their opinion that Israel should take an active part in guaranteeing Amin al-Jumayyil's continued rule as primary leader in Lebanon.

The sources think that the visit to Washington by the prime minister and defense minister was a turning point in Israel's policy in Lebanon. They point to the fact that over the last few months, there has been a gradual sobering in the government. The government has recognized that the broad goals and objectives of the war in Lebanon cannot be achieved. In this context, statements by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, that Israel's only goal is to safeguard peace in the north, are being mentioned. There have been other statements about the fact that Israel has begun to make its withdrawal from Lebanon less and less dependent on the withdrawal of the foreign forces, that is, the Syrians. In his Knesset speech, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir mentioned the removal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon only at the end of a list of the priorities and goals of Israeli policy in Lebanon.

Political sources in Jerusalem who are following the results of the talks in Washington assess that Israel will now be prevented from taking any independent initiative and policy in Lebanon. One source said that had the talks been held 3 months earlier, the administration would have succeeded in stopping Israel's withdrawing to the Al-Awwali line. According to these elements, in Prime Minister Shamir's statements at the end of his talks in Washington, as well as in his political announcement, there was a trend toward not mentioning at all the price Israel will have to pay in return for the U.S. commitments and closer ties, as well as the coordination between the two countries and the aid.

In contrast to these evaluations, last night other political sources said that Israel had not given the United States any commitment to deepen its involvement in Lebanon. At the same time, these sources confirmed that it was clear that after the decisions about cooperation and coordination, Israel would have to coordinate and agree with the Americans on a decision for a further withdrawal in Lebanon. These political sources also said that the Israeli and American goal had not changed. Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens want to get to a situation in which Israel will be able to complete its withdrawal from Lebanon, and this is also what the Americans, who are interested in bringing the Marines home, told these sources. According to them, what is needed to attain this goal is to put heavy pressure on the Syrians to force them to speak about conditions for their departure from Lebanon.

In any event, from talks with various political sources a short time after the prime minister made his political statement to the Knesset, it emerges that a few days after Shamir's and Arens's return to Israel, fears and uncertainty are beginning to be heard from coalition elements, too, regarding the various meanings of some of the results of the talks held in Washington.

Shamir Asks U.S. Administration To Influence Egypt

TA041633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman denied reports that Yitzhaq Shamir asked the heads of the U.S. Administration to impose economic sanctions on Egypt in order that it return its ambassador to Israel. The spokesman said that the prime minister only asked the Americans to exert their influence on the Egyptians, since the United States is a signatory to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

MA'ARIV on Mubarak Reaction

TA040949 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Dec 83

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *MA'ARIV* says it is possible to understand why the Egyptian president is not happy about the rapprochement between Israel and the United States. The understanding between the two countries runs counter to his policy regarding Lebanon. He insists on not resuming normalization until the IDF withdraws from Lebanon but the U.S. Administration believes that an immediate withdrawal will damage the chances of convincing the Syrians to withdraw. Egypt's demand that sanctions against Israel be adopted is then contradictory to the U.S. interest. President Mubarak must ask himself whether his status in Washington has not been eroded due to his stiff policy vis-a-vis Israel.

Shamir Warns Syria Against Carrying Out War Threats

TA052111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has warned Syria against carrying out its threats and getting embroiled in a dangerous adventure the results of which are already known. The prime minister said that Israel would not stand alone in the face of Syrian threats and interference by a world superpower. Therefore, we should cooperate with the United States, not in order to wage war but to deter the Syrians.

The prime minister emphasized there is agreement and full understanding between the United States and Israel as to how to prevent further wars in the region. Shamir said that in his recent talks with President Reagan, the President promised to extend to Israel as much aid as necessary, and this also applies to the aid necessary for overcoming economic difficulties. Nevertheless, the prime minister stated, Israel must arrive at a turning point in its economic situation in the upcoming year. Mr Shamir was speaking at the opening of the convention of constructors and builders in Jerusalem.

Urges West Bank Construction

TA060640 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by Aharon Sittner]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir last night urged private builders to develop the West Bank "just as you have built up the rest of Eretz Yisra'el."

Addressing the opening session of the 35th convention of the Federation of Contractors and Builders at the Jerusalem Hilton, Shamir said: "During my talks with President Reagan last week, we discussed the areas of disagreement between our two countries as well as the subjects on which we agree.

"When President Reagan — who is a loyal friend of Israel — stated that Israeli settlement in Judaea and Samaria is an obstacle to peace, I told him he was mistaken. I explained that with the advent of Zionism, Jews here have been observing the mitzva [religious precept] of building up Eretz Yisra'el — and Eretz Yisra'el means all of the land of Israel.

"Our assent at Camp David to discuss autonomy for the people in Judaea and Samaria does not mean we have yielded on the right to settle that region and develop it. We are building communities in Judaea and Samaria and will continue to build up all of Eretz Yisra'el."

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Construction and Housing has launched several projects in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights in the past two weeks.

Among the new projects are permanent buildings in the north Samaria settlement of Hermesh; infrastructure and road construction at Yaqir and Na'ale, also in Samaria; and earthwork and development at Adora, south of Mount Hebron, and at Neve Ze'elim in the central Gaza district. In addition to the construction in the Golan Heights and the administered areas, the ministry will add flats, a nursery, and bomb shelters at Kibbutz Lotam in Galilee.

Shamir Meets West Bank Representatives 4 December

TA041839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister has promised the representatives of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria that he will give suitable orders to all elements so that tempers will calm down in the area and tension will subside. He promised he would get down to the essentials in order to examine matters in the area and would also examine from the judical aspect how to implement various laws so that the settlers should be satisfied. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the prime minister told the settlers that he wanted to visit the area in the near future. The meeting was held in Mr Shamir's Jerusalem office.

Arens Comments on U.S. Talks, W. Bank Situation

TA051900 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that he does not recommend that Jews move about by themselves in Judaea and Samaria, but rather in groups. It is impossible to move about there as in the Mahane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem. The defense minister was talking at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He emphasized that there is no coordination between the activities of the IDF and the actions of the U.S. Air Force. The only existing coordination is in control in the airspace. The subject of coordinating activities was not raised in Washington, although both sides now understand that it is desirable to coordinate their positions. According to the defense minister, it is possible that the visit in Washington will be a sign of a change in the links between the two countries. From the economic angle, the agreements constitute a far-reaching change in military aid.

Arens on Territories Situation

TA052115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] In a meeting with leaders of the settlements in the territories this evening, Defense Minister Moshe Arens promised to enforce the law and impose order in Judaea and Samaria. In the talk held at the settlement of Berakha near Nabulus, Minister Arens said order must prevail in the territories. He added that the defense establishment was examining further measures to ensure the peace.

The leaders of the settlements received the impression that the defense minister realizes the problems they presented to him. However, for the time being, they decided not to dismantle the center of protest at Joseph's Tomb and at Mount Berakha. According to the settlers, the legal problem remains regarding how to step up punishment against lawbreakers. Minister Arens told them he thinks arrangements should be formulated within the framework of the law and amid national consensus.

'Security Sources' on U.S. Air Strike in Lebanon

TA051126 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by 'Oded Granot, Ya'aqov Erez, Yosef Walter, and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Israeli security sources reported yesterday that "no military action was coordinated between the United States and Israel." They made it clear that the United States did not brief Israel on its intention to attack Syrian positions and that the timing of the Israeli Air Force operation against terrorist targets the day before yesterday, the day before the U.S. operation, was coincidental. Israeli observers emphasize that the Americans are in Lebanon at the invitation of the Beirut administration and patrol Lebanese skies with the knowledge and approval of the Lebanese Government. The observers view yesterday's operation against Syrian targets as a turning point in U.S. policy.

The United States has decided on a change in policy toward the Syrians in Lebanon and views them today as a dangerous enemy which should be acted against with force when necessary. This was stated by senior U.S. officials in political contacts with Jerusalem. The U.S. Administration, which had decided on strategic coordination with Israel, with a common assessment of the Syrian-Soviet threat, informed Jerusalem it has decided to shift from restraint to a firm policy against the Syrians, who are the most dangerous elements in the region, according to the U.S. Administration.

Satisfaction was expressed in Jerusalem over the change in U.S. policy toward the Syrians, as well as sorrow over the capture of one of the U.S. pilots, the death of another, and the casualties inflicted on the U.S. Marines in Beirut. It was announced, at the same time, that the U.S. air strike yesterday was not coordinated with Israel.

U.S. Aid for Next Fiscal Year Detailed

TA040622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] In the next fiscal year Israel will receive from the United States military aid amounting to $1.4 billion, all a grant. Our correspondent in Washington Razi Barqay reports that this still requires the final endorsement of the two governments but it appears it will be approved within a few days. This year Israel is receiving $1.7 billion in military aid, half of which is a loan and half a grant. Israel asked to receive this sum next year too but as a grant. The U.S. Administration rejected this request. The aid in question is for the fiscal year beginning in October 1984. Final decisions have not yet been made regarding the scope of economic aid for next year. Israel is asking for $1.2 billion as opposed to the $910 million it will receive this year.

Further on U.S. Aid

TA041333 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Dec 83 pp 1, 6

[Report by Tzvi Zinger, Arye Tzimuqi, Gad Becker and Yuisra'el Tomer]

[Text] An injection of between $750 million to $1 billion into the military industries; an increase in the grant portion of the U.S. aid to Israel and setting the military aid at $1.4 billion, entirely as a grant; an increase in the credit possibilities; an agreement in principle for a free trade zone — these are the major achievements in the economic sphere obtained by the prime minister and defense minister in their visit to the United States.

Senior circles in the Finance Ministry said yesterday that "the achievements scored are not revolutionary but are a very important step forward in the effort to renew the economic growth while relying on exports."

These circles said that the achievements made by Shamir in the United States will not lead to a change in the Finance Ministry's policy which focuses on a rapid decrease in the deficit in the balance of payments as well as budget cuts. The achievements in the United States will only help reach the goals which the Finance Ministry set for itself.

Following are the major achievements:

A. Military aid — Israel asked for $1.7 billion; the Americans proposed $1.275 billion and the sum finally agreed upon was $1.4 billion, all as a grant.

B. Credit — The U.S. Administration will recommend that large U.S. banks give grants to Israel to help it repay its debts and improve its economic condition. This means short-term relief as far as the burden of loans is concerned and release from heavy pressures now burdening the Israeli economy.

C. Security exports — An agreement is emerging regarding the exports of a number of Israeli military items to the United States. The items concerned are mainly military electronics products and communications equipment. If agreements are signed, the U.S. Army will place orders for entire production lines, and this will provide Israeli industries with employment for a number of years. According to one version, the United States may purchase in Israel industrial products amounting to 15 percent of the overall U.S. Government's investment in military procurement.

D. Increase of grant — Matters in this sphere have not yet been finalized but economic circles in Jerusalem believe there is a chance that the grant portion in the overall U.S. aid will increase.

E. Free trade — An agreement in principle has been achieved on opening a free trade zone between the two countries. This means that if an agreement is reached, Israel will enjoy preferential treatment in the U.S. market (the Americans will enjoy a similar status in Israel), just as in Israel's relations with the EEC. The United States has not signed such an agreement with any country so far.

All these matters are currently tantamount to wishful thinking based on mutual understanding. The details will be concluded in the coming weeks when various survey teams will arrive here.

More Aid Possible

TA050712 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] America's pledge to give Israel $1.4 billion in military grants for fiscal 1985 is "not necessarily Washington's last word," according to Cabinet sources here.

The $1.4 billion figure is $300 million less than Israel had requested. But the sources said "there is an understanding that we will get more if we need more."

The sources spoke after yesterday's Cabinet meeting, at which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens reported on their talks in Washington. The $1.4 billion figure represents an increase on the $1.275 billion which the administration had originally planned to grant Israel in military aid for fiscal 1985 (the year beginning in October 1984).

But Arens had hoped to be able to persuade American policymakers that Israel needs the full $1.7 billion. According to the Cabinet sources, there are still hopes here that Arens's detailed explanations of Israel's requirements will indeed achieve the desired effect. In addition, the Cabinet sources reported with evident gratification, the U.S. has undertaken that military aid to Israel will continue to grow beyond 1985. In other words, the 1985 figure is not to be seen as a peak or plateau. If Israel needs more, more will be made available. This, according to the sources, was the understanding with which Shamir and Arens left Washington.

The prime minister, in his report to the Cabinet, dwelt at length on the economic achievements of his visit to the U.S. One American decision that would impact almost immediately on Israel's economy, Shamir said, was the approval for the outlay of $250 million in Israel for development of the Lavi warplane.

In the longer term, the decision in principle to establish a "free trade area" between the U.S. and Israel would have major implications for the Israeli economy, Shamir said.

The Cabinet was told that this agreement, once instituted, could increase Israeli exports to the U.S. by as much as 30 percent.

The U.S. has undertaken to conclude negotiations on the free trade area "within a matter of months," according to Cabinet sources.

Similarly, Israel is hoping for speedy negotiations and prompt decisions on the "prepositioning" of American supplies in this country. This is one of the issues to be taken up by the political-military joint committee, and Israeli officials are predicting privately that work could begin during 1984 on major American medical facilities alongside Israeli hospitals.

U.S. Jerusalem Consul Receives Neturey Qarta Leader

TA051332 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Dec 83 p 3

[Report by Noah Zvuluni]

[Text] Howard Kaveler, the U.S. consul in East Jerusalem, has recognized the "foreign minister" of Neturey Qarta [an ultraorthodox Jewish sect which does not recognize the State of Israel]. He granted full recognition during his visit to the Me'a She'arim Quarter of Jerusalem which is an autonomous area of ultraorthodox Jews.

At the end of last week the U.S. consul visited the home of Avraham Fisch, a U.S. citizen living at 13 (Baharn) Street in the Me'a She'arim Quarter. He came for an update on the harassment by police, which troubled the Fisch family for some weeks with night visits, claiming it is looking for Yehuda Arental who lived in an apartment just opposite the Fisch family and who is suspected of having attacked Mayor Teddy Kollek.

As a U.S. citizen, Fisch appealed to the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem, asking for his intervention to prevent the night harrassment. The consul contacted the police and according to him, he received the following answer: Go to the Foreign Ministry. However, since the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem does not recognize the Foreign Ministry which is located in "international" Jerusalem and does not maintain ties with the country's institutions in this city, the consul transferred Fisch's complaint to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, the "foreign minister" of Neturey Qarta who was present during the U.S. consul's visit to Fisch's house, invited the consul to visit the heart of the "ultraorthodox autonomous area." The consul accepted the invitation and, following the visit and appropriate explanations by Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, he expressed satisfaction [sevi'ut ratzon] with the autonomy.

In the meantime Fisch submitted, via attorney Hana Hovev, an appeal to the High Court of Justice against Police Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, the police inspector general, Arye Ivtzan, and the commander of the Police Jerusalem District, Rahamim Confront.

HADASH Submits No-Confidence Motion to Knesset

TA051113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The HADASH faction submitted a no-confidence motion to the Knesset against the government. According to HADASH, the Shamir government and the Reagan administration signed an agreement to launch warlike activities against Syria.

Labor Party Critical of Strategic Agreement With U.S.

TA041217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] The Labor Party says that if there is any truth to the reports publicized in Israel and abroad about a strategic agreement between Israel and the United States, this should give rise to grave concern since the agreement is not compatible with Israel's clear security needs. A war with Syria, the Labor Party states, may entangle (?us) in dangerous international complications. The statement says further it is especially worrisome to realize that military and political decisions are made in an arbitrary and faulty manner, without the knowledge of the government and the Knesset.

Demonstration Protests Continued Presence in Lebanon

TA032015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 3000 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] There has been a demonstration in Tel Aviv against the Israeli presence in Lebanon. A thousand supporters of the There Is a Limit Movement marched this evening from Municipality Square to the Tel Aviv museum grounds. They called for the soldiers to be brought home, and expressed opposition to the tightening of military ties with the United States. The demonstration passed without incident.

Deal To Establish Factory in Ciskei Reported

TA021921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Two Israeli firms have reportedly signed a deal to establish a factory in the Ciskei tribal homeland. The factory will be the first owned by Israelis in the territory, and will reportedly employ about 150 people, involving an initial investment of almost $2 million. Earlier this week the Israeli Foreign Ministry said it was trying to discourage private trade ties with the South African tribal homeland or Bantustan.

ALGERIA

U.S. Envoy Hears of 'Deep Concern' Over Lebanon

LD052005 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Hadj Benabdelkader Azzout, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, received U.S. Ambassador to Algeria Michael Holt Newlin today. Their meeting came shortly after the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon.

In his talks with the U.S. ambassador, Brother Benabdelkader Azzout conveyed Algeria's deep concern over signs that the Multinational Force is steadily becoming an element that kindles tension and heightens the danger of military escalation, which, in turn, would have an adverse effect on peace and security in that region and the world.

France's Cresson Comments on Cooperation, Departs

LD052308 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Algeria and France have agreed that bilateral cooperation (?should) enter a new phase. A joint working group is to be established, and will meet in the first half of 1984. This group will study ways and means to transfer technology, an important point that is one result of the second session of the Algerian-French Joint Commission. We will return to that issue after informing you that Edith Cresson, French minister of external trade and tourism, left Algiers early this afternoon. Mrs Cresson — who, together with Abdelhamid Brahimi, serves as the commission's chairman — met with several members of the government during her stay, most notably Prime Minister Abdelghani. She held a press conference at the airport prior to her departure, and drew up a balance of Algerian-French exchanges since the last meeting of the Joint Commission. She also commented on their prospects.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi:'Arafat's Exit To End Tripoli Attack

LD052325 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA yesterday concerning the situation in northern Lebanon. In it, he said: The fighting taking place in Tripoli, Lebanon, will end with Yasir 'Arafat's exit from Tripoli. As a result of the many and detailed meetings which have taken place between the parties concerned, I can guarantee that the town of Tripoli will not be attacked or stormed by force following Yasir 'Arafat's departure. The brother leader added: Libya will accept Yasir 'Arafat and those accompanying him should they decide to seek refuge here.

JANA Political Editor on U.S. Air Raid in Lebanon

LD051632 Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 5 Dec 83

["JANA Editorial on U.S. Air Raids" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 30, Dec 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY issued a commentary on the U.S. air raids launched yesterday morning by 28 aircraft and by direct orders from President Reagan on Syrian and progressive forces positions in Lebanon.

He said "these concentrated air raids have come only days after the signing of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation protocol, and are seen as the concrete result of the aggressive intentions underlying this agreement in a bid to enable the imperialist-Zionist alliance to impose total control over Lebanon and to transform the country to a launch pad for aggression against the Arab nation.

Following the Zionist raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon, American aircraft carried out similar raid thus practically translating the imperialist-Zionist alliance by exerting military pressure on Syria to force it into withdrawing its forces from Lebanon and leaving this Arab country clear for U.S. and Zionist forces...

U.S. policy has now dangerously raised the threat of war in the region. The dangerous military aspect of this policy of escalation means that America has taken it upon itself to fight directly instead of leaving the fighting to its Zionist ally. This has created a new cauldron of tension in the region and will have devastating effects on the region's peoples and dangerous repercussions for world peace and security.

Confrontation between the Arab nation on one hand and the U.S. Administration and its Zionist ally on the other, has left the Arabs without choice but to engage in mortal self-defence and to utilize all resources in confronting imperialist-Zionist aggression which is being escalated with intent day by day.

Whatever its might, America can be defeated if confronted. The downing of three of its military aircraft by Syrian air defence is a witness, and more American aircraft can be shot down and America's face can be bloodied.

We are facing a dangerous form of aggression in which advanced weapons of warfare are being used. We should be clearly aware that this aggression is being directed at Syria and the Arab nation, and it is therefore the Arab nation's duty to stand beside the Syrian people to foil this aggression and smash the imperialist-Zionist bond.

SUDAN

Council Briefed on Numayri's Health, Security

EA042344 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting at 1000 today. The session was presided over by Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president of the republic, and was held at the council's headquarters.

At the start of the meeting, the first vice president of the republic briefed the ministers on the results of the president's medical examinations, which confirmed that his health is currently good. He relayed greetings to the council members from the president, who is on his way home following a working tour of Italy, France, and the United States. According to at-Tayyib, the successes achieved during the tour will be (?announced) following his excellency's return to the homeland.

His excellency then fully briefed the esteemed council on the events that have taken place in the country's southern region. Those events, he said, are a natural result of the series of conspiracies which are unfolding in accord with the plan prepared by the USSR to use Sudan as a springboard for its domination of Africa, with particular emphasis on the southern part of the Horn of Africa.

His excellency revealed the extent of the ongoing conspiracy in which Libya and Ethiopia are involved against the security and safety of Sudan, its territorial integrity, and the unity of its people and government. He noted that this scheme has gone forward despite Sudan's intensive efforts to stress the policy of good neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

This policy reflects a basic principle of our country's foreign policy, especially as far as our relations with Ethiopia are concerned. The first vice president of the republic also highlighted the warm ties which exist between the peoples of Sudan and Ethiopia.

The first vice president of the republic concluded by confirming the cohesiveness of the domestic front, the people, and government, as well as the ability of the People's Armed Forces and the entire security apparatus to defend and maintain the country's territorial integrity and the people's gains in various sectors, all of which have come as a result of the May revolution (?under the guidance) of the leader president, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

TUNISIA

Talks With Libya Open in Tunis 5 December

LD060949 Tripoli JANA in English 0848 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Rabi al Awal 1, December 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian technical committee commenced yesterday in Tunis to discuss the development of technical cooperation between the two fraternal countries in a bid to bolster integration between them in different fields.

It is worth noting that the committee was formed by the supreme Libyan-Tunisian joint committee during its first meeting in Tripoli last July.

ETHIOPIA

Trade Minister, Delegation Depart for Moscow

EA052316 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] A five-man trade delegation led by Minister of External Trade Comrade Wollie Chekol left for Moscow last Saturday. The Ministry of External Trade reports that during its 1-week stay in Moscow the trade delegation will assess implementation of the trade protocol signed between the two countries in 1983 and will also sign a new trade protocol agreement for 1984.

Eritrean, Tigre Fronts' Battle Results Reported

EA041522 (Clandestine) Voice of Tigre Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 1315 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] On 1 December the heroic forces of the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] attacked enemy soldiers based at (Moia Kal) on the Asmara-Massawa road, killing 25 Dergue soldiers, wounding over 30, capturing 4 Kalashnikovs, (?9) Bren guns, and consolidating control of the town. They forced the rest of the soldiers to burn their property and flee. In another development, forces of the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] attacked a Dergue force moving along the Nak'fa front at (Weha Tin), killing and wounding nine soldiers and forcing the rest to retreat.

Further EPLF, TPLF Gains

EA032208 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Front in Somali to Western Somalia 1200 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] said in Abu Dhabi that the gallant EPLF fighters inflicted heavy casualties on the black Abyssinian colonialist forces at (Sanaa). The Abyssinian troops lost 70 soldiers killed, many others wounded, and lost a very large quantity of light and heavy weapons, tanks, APC's all destroyed. [Passage indistinct] The intrepid Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] fighters launched a surprise attack on the black Abyssinian colonialist forces stationed in Bale region killing (?118) soldiers and wounding many others. The TPLF fighters also destroyed a very large quantity of military hardware and captured 30 AK rifles. The attack, which took place on 25 November, resulted in the total destruction of the black colonialist Abyssinian troops camp.

Further TPLF Operations

EA032228 (Clandestine) Voice of Tigre Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 1345 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] On 25 and 26 November the heroic Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] fighters ambushed Dergue-owned trucks and trailers between the towns of (Ehel Wuha) and Bati and between Logiya and the Aseb-Addis Ababa route respectively and destroyed two trucks [words indistinct]. The trucks were carrying grain. In another development the TPLF forces attacked a Dergue contingent composed of 1 battalion and [word indistinct] moving from Hagere Selam to (Argir), killing 3 soldiers, wounding 13, capturing 1 soldier and 1 Kalashinkov, and forcing the others to retreat.

SEYCHELLES

AFP: Statement Issued on Alleged Coup Plot

AB051754 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Victoria, Dec 5 (AFP) — Details of a coup plot that would have involved the killings of President France Albert Rene and American personnel at the United States satellite tracking station here to attract a Grenada-style invasion were announced today by Seychellois security authorities. The information, gathered through intelligence operations, was revealed following last weekend's announcement in Johannesburg that five men had been arrested for recruiting mercenaries.

A statement giving details of the plot implied that the five men, plus one woman, were receiving training 30 miles outside Johannesburg for the assassination of President Rene. The statement released by the security authorities said: "We knew when the training started. We knew when the recruitment of a larger group of mercenaries started in Durban and elsewhere."

For over two months, the security services had been keeping a close watch on the plotters, most of whom lived in the United Kingdom. People in Europe and Hong Kong had been contacted in a bid to secure funds for the recruitment of mercenaries for an attack to topple the Seychellois Government. The group hoped to take advantage of the anxiety of Hong Kong businessmen over the impending reintegration of Hong Kong into the People's Republic of China following the expiration of the lease held by Britain, the statement said. Businessmen were promised Seychelles passports, land and business privileges in return for their assistance.

The statement said the plan by the so-called resistance movement was to send an assassination team to kill President Rene and other leaders in order to cause panic and chaos, thus enabling a larger force to invade the country.

"We also knew that they had planned to attack the tracking station and kill certain American individuals in order to attract the U.S. to intervene militarily in a Grenada-style invasion," the statement added.

The plotters had launched a propaganda campaign to frighten away tourists and were sending cassettes and newsletters to the Seychelles to create disturbances internally. According to the statement, "these were steps which were supposed to lead to the assassination of President Rene and the violent overthrow of the government."

The statement did not indicate how it monitored this latest coup plot and made no mention of Kenneth Williamson, the private detective who reportedly leaked the information to the South African police. A year ago, the security services began broadcasting bugged conversations of Seychellois exiles recorded in London and allegedly relating to a coup plot. On November 25, 1981, the mercenaries succeeded in reaching the Seychelles but were routed at the airport and fled in a hijacked plane.

The statement released today said the uncovering of yet another security threat to the islands showed that the Seychelles had the ability to counter all plots and "repulse any aggression from any quarter."

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan Reports DFSS Defection Claim

EA040118 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Reports reacing us from the 15th Gorod Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces states that yesterday, 2 December, 11 soldiers headed by an NCO defected to the DFSS with their weapons. The soldiers, former loyalist troops of the Mogadishu regime, have now joined the armed struggle aimed at toppling the regime of General Siad Barre.

Radio Halgan Reports SNM Battle Successes

EA040116 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] Fighters from the Colonel Abdullahi Hajji Said base of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces killed 10 soldiers and wounded 30 others including the officer in charge, Second Lieutenant Yasin Biko, of the unit of loyalist troops of General Barre's regime. The attack, launched by the 1st Battalion of the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces on 27 November on the bases of 32 and 34 Battalions of the loyalist troops of Gen Barre's regime stationed in Togdheer region, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy forces in men and materiel. The loyalist troops of Gen Barre's regime lost one jeep mounted with a 106 gun, one APC, and one TM Fiat vehicle destroyed. In the action the SNM wing of the Somali oppositon forces lost one martyr. Reports reaching us from Col Abdullahi Haji Said base state that in another action the SNM forces on 29 November killed 17 enemy soldiers and wounded 20 others. The loyalist Barre troops regime lost one APC and one TM Fiat vehicle destroyed. The SNM suffered four fighters killed and four others wounded. The action by the fighters of the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces took place in the environs of Xaaji Salax, Goraya Xun, Bissigha, and Jenila Yeh villages all in the Togdheer region of northern Somalia.

TANZANIA

Kenyan Delegation Arrives in Arusha for Talks

EA052346 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] A high-powered Kenyan delegation arrived in Arusha last night for the ongoing talks on bilateral relations between Kenya and Tanzania. The delegation, led by Minister for Foreign Affairs Elijah Mwangale, was given a warm welcome by Tanzanian ministers, government officials, and jubilant throngs of people. The Arusha talks on border crossings between the two countries started at the beginning of this month following last month's reopening of the common border. The Kenyan delegation, which left Nairobi yesterday, also included Minister for Transport and Communications Henry Kosgey, Minister for Tourism Maina Wanjigi, Commerce and Industry Minister Andrew Omanaga, and Finance and Planning Minister Professor George Saitoti, Attorney General Matthew Muli, and several senior government officials. On arrival at the Namanga border post, the delegation was given a rousing welcome by hundreds of joyous Tanzanian nationals led by several ministers. The Arusha talks are expected to continue up to Thursday this week.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Comments

EA060007 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Kenya is to approach all issues with Tanzania with open-minded commitment and contribution [as heard] to further improve bilateral relations between the two countries. The remark was made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Elijah Mwangale who has led a delegation to ongoing talks in Arusha, Tanzania. Mwangale said that Kenya was committed to good-neighborliness and was also ready to enhance the spirit of expectation of the people of east Africa. He said that the good cooperation between the two presidents has paved the way to iron out small differences which might arise. He said that such differences should not be allowed to make the people and economies of the two neighbors suffer and should be solved amicably. The meeting, attended by high-powered delegations from both countries, is discussing trade, transport and communications, and tourism between the two countries. Welcoming the Kenya delegation, Tanzania's Minister for Transport and Communications Mr John Malecela said that the aspirations of all east African peoples should not be left to disappear by their leaders. He said that a new and strong base has been established between Kenya and Tanzania on which better brotherly relations could be built. The Tanzania delegation comprised six ministers and other government officials, and soon after the welcome the meeting went into closed session. Later Mr Mwangale thanked the Tanzanian Government for the warm and cordial welcome accorded to the Kenyan delegation.

BURUNDI

Government Submits 1984 Budget to Assembly

AB052016 Paris AFP in French 1446 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Bujumbura, 5 Dec (AFP) — On Monday the Government of Burundi submitted its 1984 ordinary budget to the National Assembly, according to official sources. The budget is 64 percent higher than the previous one.

The estimates amount to 15 billion Burundian francs (about 66.6 billion CFA francs) while the [words indistinct] (about 75.5 billion CFA francs). The capital investments budget will be submitted on Friday.

In the 1983 budget, ordinary expenditures were put at 11.69 billion Burundian francs while the estimates were 11.55 billion francs. The capital investments budget was 4.11 billion (about 18.2 billion CFA francs).

CAMEROON

Yaounde Commentary Discusses Upcoming Elections

AB021540 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Dec 83

[Summary] "During yesterday's press conference, President Paul Biya ruled out the question of dissolving parliament. The head of state said the remaining 30 members of parliament will be elected in a parliamentary byelection within the framework of a democratic process. In our series of editorials on that press conference, Fay Henri Fonie has these observations on the democratic election of the remaining 30 parliamentarians:"

[Begin Fonie recording] Many practices of old are giving way to the numerous, new, and dynamic changes that are taking place throughout the nation. "While these dynamic and necessary changes are taking place, the people have a right to be informed why and how the changes come by. In one of those rare occasions in two decades, the press in Cameroon yesterday had the the luxury of being accorded a truly characteristic, off-the-cuff, and extemporaneous press conference by the Cameroon head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya. Prompted by his democratization urge, the Cameroon head of state announced that presidential elections will be held early next year, that he will run for the presidency alongside with other Cameroonians, and that studies are under way for byelections to fill the 30 existing vacant seats in parliament. Although no decision has yet been taken on how the 30 parliamentarians will be distributed, President Paul Biya's opinion and intimation that a possible solution could be to give each province three seats once again demonstrates the incorruptible man with love for fair play and democracy."

Prophets of change without reason would wish that the present parliament should be dissolved, but President Paul Biya, true to type, held that in so far as the present parliament was legitimately voted in by the people and in so far as there have been no protests, there is no justifiable reason to dissolve it. "Again, being the courageous and vigorous man that he is, he declared that if the need arose he could dissolve the present parliament." Particularly by his reference to the possible equitable distribution of political power, our head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, shows that the (?meshes) of his mind are clear and that the distribution of political power is the clear element in balancing pluralistic pressures against the need for national unity. There are also exhilarating signs that the presidency will be fully democratized since several people will be allowed to contest.

"This practice — like Rome which was never built in 1 day — will gradually proliferate [as heard] all the echelons of party, parliamentary, and municipal elections. That day does not seem far. There are also (?pointers) that we will soon experience true and effective representation by our parliamentarians. The fact that in the past, the constituency of each parliamentarian was the entire territory made the idea of accountability and responsibility a cheap deceit if not deliberate pestilence to the masses." [as heard]

The day that will come to pass, we can pat ourselves on the shoulder that we have arrived, that we now live in a society that not only respects the individual; a society that not only establishes those conditions of order, law, security, and justice; a society that not only guarantees our rights and true liberty of action, of thought, and or speech and security from violence and poverty, but above all a Cameroon where each one of us has a voice in determining the nature of the society in which he lives and, through his elected representatives, has the right to make the law by which he is governed.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bokassa Issues Statement on Arrival in France

AB052130 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Paris, Dec 5 (AFP) — Former self-crowned Central African Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa said today that he wanted to stay in France and would refuse any offers of a home from other countries. In a statement read to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by is lawyer, Mr. Bokassa said that while he was willing to comply with the need to maintain a low profile in order to stay in France, he wanted Central Africans to know he was willing to return to the republic, either to serve his country or to go into "peaceful retirement".

The former emperor arrived in Paris yesterday after being asked to leave Ivory Coast by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. He had spent four years in exile there following the overthrow of his government by David Dacko with French military assistance amid reports that he had been involved personally in a massacre of schoolchildren in Bangui.

Mr Bokassa spent the night with members of his family at a Chateau he owns at Hardricourt, on the Paris outskirts. The French Government, embarrassed by his sudden arrival, has been trying to find somewhere else for him to go.

The statement went on: "France has always been my second home and I have served her, in times of peace and war, with honour, devotion, fidelity and self-denial."

Mr Bokassa maintains that he came to France at his own request and has thanked President Houphouet-Boigny for "allowing me to return to France." However, according to the French Foreign Ministry, Mr. Bokassa was asked to leave the Ivory Coast.

Further on Statement

LD052016 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Former Emperor Bokassa of Central Africa is now in France after landing at Roissy last night from a scheduled Air Afrique flight from Abidjan. He immediately went to one of the properties he owns in the Yvelines. A short time ago a statement from Jean-Bedel Bokassa was read to journalists who gathered at the gates of his chateau. It was read by his lawyer, Maitre Francois Jouffre de la Pradelle:

[Begin recording] I thank President Felix Houphouet-Boigny for having kindly authorized my return to France, where I am now installed with my family. I express my gratitude to the president of the republic and to the Government of France for having allowed me to come back to my home. France has always been my second motherland and I have served it in peace and in war, with honor, devotion, faith, and self-denial. I request authorization to remain in France but with the reservation that I want the Central African people to be told that I am prepared to return to my country to serve it or to begin peaceful retirement there under conditions indispensable for my security and for social peace. I decline all offers of asylum abroad, confining myself to my Central African motherland or to France, my country of origin.

Signed: Jean-Bedel Bokassa, former emperor of Central Africa, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, military medal recipient, Croix de Guerre, Legion of Honor-military. [end recording]

That was Maitre Francois Jouffre de la Pradelle, who was speaking in the name of the former sovereign. We now ask about the conditions under which Bokassa was able to enter France. Here is Ulysse Gosset:

[Begin Gosset recording] France has certainly been faced with a fait accompli. Paris was certainly informed, as was Central Africa, about the former emperor's departure but there were no consultations. The Ivory Coast was becoming more and more annoyed with this expensive guest in their midst, who was complaining that he was a prisoner. So Abidjan finally said: Let him go, all the more since last week Bokassa sought to return secretly to his country. He was, therefore, presented with a one-way ticket by Air Afrique regular service to Paris. France could not send him back on the plane to Abidjan, because, as we know, President Houphouet-Boigny wants nothing more to do with this ungrateful former emperor. So France would like Bokassa to go away. [end recording]

Arrests Reported in Connection With Bokassa Return

AB061300 Paris AFP in French 1115 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Bangui, 6 Dec (AFP) — Many people including Joseph Potolot, former minister of justice under former Emperor Bokassa, have been arrested in Bangui in connection with investigations into the attempt by the former emperor to return to the CAR, according to reliable sources in Bangui. Mr Potolot, who was also once a minister of foreign affairs and vice premier in charge of the interior, according to the source who did not give the identities of the other people arrested, kept direct and regular contacts with Jean-Bedel Bokassa and visited Abidjan regularly to meet his former "master." He often boasted of belonging to the little group of personalities who remained faithful to the ex-dictator of Berengue. Reports on the activities of Mr Potolot quickly reached the government, which relieved him of his post of director general of the Central African social security bureau.

Still within the framework of the ex-emperor's attempt to return to Bangui, Colonel Christophe Grelombe, the CAR minister of interior, met on Monday with about 400 local personalities at the mayor's office and asked them to be vigilant. The government, he affirmed, will do everything to break up the network of "Bokassists" and "nostalgic" people in the pay of their former master.

On his part, Henri Dondra, president of the association of the martyred children (massacred in 1979 under Bokassa's regime) deplored the publicity given by the French media to Bokassa who, it is recalled, arrived unexpectedly in Paris last Sunday. CAR authorities have not yet reacted officially to this. Secondary school children in Bangui have called for the extradition of the ex-emperor to expiate his crimes.

The Bangui criminal court on 23 December 1980 condemned the former dictator to death in absentia and ordered the confiscation of all his assests and real estate in the CAR and abroad.

GHANA

Border Commission Seeks End to Disputes With Togo

AB052006 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the Ghana-Togo Border Demarcation Commission, Mr Kwame Agyir, has emphasized that the commission is determined to work hard to find a permanent solution to the border dispute between the two countries. This will ensure peace and good-neighborliness. Mr Agyir was speaking at a ceremony at which the Volta regional secretary, Dr Asamoah Tutu, settled the border dispute between the people of Ashanti Kpoeta and Achim, both on the Ghana side of the border. He blamed the present border disputes on the work of the colonial masters. Mr Agyir called for restraint and discipline until a solution is found to them.

The regional secretary explained that the move is a step toward making peace with their immediate neighbors on the Togo side. It would be recalled that several people were injured, some of them seriously in a recent clash over land between the two factions on the opposite side of the border. Dr Asamoah Tutu hinted that the whole dispute will be settled within the next two weeks at Hunuta within Ghana's territory. He however warned that the reconciliatory move should not be used to renew smuggling activities in the area.

LIBERIA

Major Kalago Luo Admits Involvement in Coup Plot

AB051955 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] One of the principal suspects in the alleged coup plot, Major Kalago Luo, has reportedly admitted his involvement in the plot. At the same time, Maj Luo is said to have appealed to the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government and the Liberian people for mercy on behalf of himself and others involved. According to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY, Maj Luo made the confession today while speaking to reporters at the office of the National Security Agency. He reportedly admitted that he and the others had met former armed forces commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa in a forest in Nimba County to discuss what he termed as a plot. Maj Luo however denied any report that he had received instructions from Thomas Quiwonkpa to launch a coup in Monrovia while the former commanding general took over Nimba County. Speaking further to the press, Maj Luo said: Even though there was a plot in the making with the consent of the former commanding general, there was no specific plan or date for implementing the plot.

NIGERIA

Shagari Holds Talks With Former Head of State

AB051620 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] A one time Nigerian head of state, Mr Yakubu Gowon, arrived in Lagos today after 8 years stay abroad. Mr Gowon, who was accompanied by his wife Victoria and daughter, was met on arrival by members of the Committee of Friends. Shortly after his arrival Mr Gowon drove to State House, Ribadi road, for a courtesy call on President Shehu Shagari. A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent said that the former head of state and the president had a long closed-door discussion which covered a wide range of issues.

The former Nigerian leader told newsmen at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport that he and his family were happy to be back and expressed sincere thanks to President Shehu Shagari and the entire nation for making his return possible. Mr Gowon said he would not be involved in partisan politics but would conform with his mission of keeping Nigeria united. In reply to a question, the former head of state described his return and that of Chief Emeka Ojukwu as the completion of the reconciliation exercise which began when he was in office.

Shagari on New Economic Measures, Development

AB051320 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] All Federal Government projects involving high foreign exchange content have been shelved. This will remain in force unless future savings in foreign exchanges are assured. The Nigerian president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, announced the measures in Ibadan, Oyo State, yesterday in an address to this year's national convention of his party, the NPN [National Party of Nigeria]. He said that state governments will have to pursue pruning in management of finances and ensure that the basic requirements, especially staff salaries, cheap food, and affordable shelter were their priorities. President Shagari stated that despite the dwindling financial resources, the Federal Government will endeavor to provide relief to areas affected by natural disasters such as drought, floods, and erosion. He said that as a result of the current worldwide economic recession, his administration had taken courageous and decisive steps to cope with the scarcity of essential commodities. But he noted that such measures had achieved a limited degree of success due largely to the unpatriotic actions and attitudes of some Nigerians in collusion with dubious aliens. President Shagari gave the assurance that such characters, whom he described as enemies of the country, will be tracked down and dealt with appropriately within the limits of the law.

He said that the emphasis of his government had now shifted to the productive sector of the economy, especially agricultural and industrial development. New emphasis, the president said, will be placed on rural development, and in an effort to diversify the sources of the income, greater efforts will be made toward mineral exploitation. President Shagari reaffirmed his commitment for the establishment of a liquified natural gas plant and stated that petrochemical and steel projects will also be implemented according to plan.

On the judiciary, the president referred to cases which followed the last general elections and said that it was the policy of his administration and his party to uphold the rule of law and respect for the independence of the judiciary. He congratulated the judiciary for its performances so far and for making Nigeria proud as the bastion of hope for the ordinary man.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara, Lingani Speak on 'New Army,' Commitments

AB051045 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The most important development in our country over the past few days was certainly the imposing marches staged yesterday in support of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR]. These demonstrations were staged by the Upper Voltan military and paramilitary forces just 4 days after the interministerial seminar on the need to genuinely decolonize our Army.

Immediately after the seminar, our Army decided to break free from the antipopular practices of the past in order to become better integrated in society. Henceforth, the Army must engage in productive work alongside the masses. It must be operational through continued training and the acquisition of appropriate equipment. Lastly, it must be a politically oriented army.

Yesterday morning's march, which must be seen within this context, has ushered in this new army, which is now more aware of its duties and interests. The various spaekers at this function lashed out at the colonial and neocolonial army that had acquired a bad reputation through acts of repression, theft, waste, and chronic political ignorance.

On behalf of all his colleagues, each speaker pledged the support of the various branches of our Army to the noble ideals of the CNR. They then urged everyone to close ranks in order to definitively bar the way for the enemies of our people.

Next to speak was Comrade Compaore Issounou, commander of the National Gendarmerie. He also welcomed the decision made at the seminar to abolish the old army, which had been artificially established by the colonial rulers and their local lackeys, whom the people remember with sorrow.

In his speech, Comrade Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani, commander in chief of our national Armed Forces, expressed happiness with the soldiers' commitment — made before the people and history — to be the military and paramilitary forces of the revolution and to be willing to cheerfully execute the exciting duties assigned to them by the popular and democratic revolution.

The final speaker, CNR Chairman Thomas Sankara, underlined the new awareness among our military and paramilitary forces. He emphasized that this awareness shows, among other things, that one will no longer be able to stage a coup d' etat, take over power, or crush the people simply by having a colonel or a soldier — manipulated and directed by rotten politicians — wake up the soldiers at night. He also described this awareness as a demonstration of our Army's new qualities. Comrade Sankara reviewed the political and social situation or our armed forces [sentence as heard] and called on military personnel to make further commitments.

Joint 'Revolutionary Cadres' Rally Reported

AB040850 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] As a further boost to the bonds of friendship between Ghana and Upper Volta, revolutionary cadres from the two countries have jointly organized a rally at Dakola, Upper Volta. The rally climaxed 3 days of cleanup exercises at Novrongo and Po organized by the People's Defense Committees [PDC] of the Navrongo District and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] in the Po District.

Addressing the rally, the Upper East regional secretary, Mr John Ndebugri, called on the people of the two countries to lift high the torch of unity that has been lit and show in their actions that the two countries are not only united, but they are on the move. He recalled efforts in the past to unite the two countries and emphasized that the new revolutionary spirit must bring a big change in relations for the mutual benefit of the two sides.

Mr Ndebugri stressed the need for the removal of all artificial barriers between African states to pave the way for free movement of people and goods and the formation of one pan-African republic.

Lieutenant Seydou Oumar represented Upper Volta's deputy head of state [title as heard], Captain Blaise Compaore. He said the brotherly people of the two countries must pool their human and material resources to build a brighter future. Lt Oumar said the revolutions in the two countries have awakened the political consciousness of the people and called on those sitting on the fence to take a stand if they are either for or against the revolution. He said the gains of the revolution might not be immediate but this should not discourage any serious-minded revolutionaries since posterity is bound to reap the harvest of the people who struggled for a better life.

A representative of the Po CDR, Mr Victor Dogo, said the revolutions of Ghana and Upper Volta are one and indivisible. He said with the two countries and peoples marching shoulder to shoulder, the imperialist and its local stooges are on the run.

The district secretary for Navrongo, Mr Sylvester Agah Mefei, called for improvement in relations in all fields between the two countries. He said the people of the two nations are eagerly looking forward to the day when the barriers dividing them will be removed and when one could move freely into either country to trade or visit relations. Cultural troops from both countries entertained the gathering with drumming, singing, and dancing.

ANGOLA

Luanda Reports Further on Youth Tribunal Declaration

MB021451 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Excerpts] At the Cidadela sports stadium in Luanda yesterday morning Angolan children put on a beautiful, colorful, and cheery show of physical training, dance, and sports on the occasion of the Angolan Pioneers Day, marking the death of the heroic pioneer (Augusto Ngangula), who was murdered by the Portuguese colonialists exactly 15 years ago.

The ceremony, which was attended by the chairman of the party and president of the republic, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, other party and state officials, party youth officials, members of social mass organizations, and representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Angola, was attended by delegates to the international tribunal Children Accuse Imperialism, which brought together in Luanda children from various parts of the world, who, jointly with representatives of other organizations, conducted a trial of imperialism.

The high point of the ceremony was the reading of the Luanda declaration of the Children Accuse Imperialism tribunal, which explains the objectives of the tribunal, summarizes its proceedings briefly, and announces the decisions of the tribunal. The declaration condemns all the practices of imperialism in Africa, Asia, Central America, and the Middle East, as well as the installation of medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe by the United States in cooperation with Western countries.

Concerning southern Africa, the declaration condemns the linkage policy through which the United States and South Africa want to make the independence of Namibia conditional on the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from Angola. It demands the immediate application of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council and the unconditional immediate withdrawal of the South African troops who have for more than 2 years occupied parts of Angolan territory. Further regarding southern Africa, the declaration condemns the imperialist actions against the states of the region, demanding the end to such actions which destabilize and hinder the harmonious development of these countries and the immediate liberation of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, which also have the right to self-determination and independence.

In this context, the declaration condemns the imperialist support for the South African racists expressed in the delivery of modern weapons that Pretoria uses in the intensification of colonial oppression, racism, repression, and aggression against the frontline states. It hails the victorious advance of the liberation struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. Concerning South Africa, the declaration condemns the sham constitutional reforms effected by the white minority in South Africa, which seeks to break the unity of action of the people in that country. It considers that apartheid cannot be reformed.

The condemnation of imperialist maneuvers and atrocities in Central America is also mentioned in the Luanda declaration of the tribunal, which stresses that the imperialist attacks against the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador as well as the support to the fascist regimes of the region and the threats against Cuba aggravate the already difficult situation of the peoples and worsen the already precarious situation of the children in Latin America in general and Central America in particular.

The declaration also condemns the American aggression against Grenada, which represents a brutal violation of international law, as well as the constant aggressions against Nicaragua from Costa Rica and Honduras.

The declaration gives particular emphasis to the Middle East, condemning the imperialist plots against the peoples of the region as expressed in the direct military intervention of the United States and Israel in Lebanon, and it supports the struggle of the Palestinian people for the fulfillment of their legitimate right to their own independent and sovereign state.

Concerning central and north Africa the declaration condemns the imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of Chad and the intransigence of Morocco in refusing to negotiate the independence of the Saharan people with the Polisario Front.

Concerning Asia, the declaration hails the efforts of the Vietnamese people, who are building a just society in difficult conditions to ensure a better future for their children. The Luanda declaration condemns the imperialist maneuvers in Asia, particularly the actions against the DPRK, Afghanistan, and Kampuchea. It calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and condemns the creation of a pact between the United States, South Korea, and Japan.

The declaration expresses its solidarity with the people of Cyprus and condemns the proclamation of independence by the Turkish Cypriots as an imperialist maneuver against the interests of Cyprus. It condemns the occupation of East Timor by Indonesia, as well as the genocide against the Mauber people, who are fighting for their self-determination and independence.

It must be stressed that this declaration is not final because some delegates to the international tribunal have not yet analyzed it.

Cuban Youth Delegation Arrives in Luanda on Visit

MB050707 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Carlos Davila, first secretary of the Cuban Union of Young Communists, has been in Luanda since yesterday at the head of a delegation of his organization.

On their arrival in the country's capital, Carlos Davila and the delegation were welcomed by (Domingos Bartolomeu), first national secretary of the Youth of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. According to the established itinerary, the delegation of the Cuban Union of Young Communists was expected to visit the (Funda) commune yesterday.

UNITA Communique Warns Foreigners To Leave

MB060633 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the UNITA Central Committee on 16 November 1983]

[Text] As 11 November has passed — a date on which many international organizations had hoped that the MPLA would decree clemency for UNITA and other foreign prisoners — the UNITA Central Committee has been forced to immediately draw the necessary conclusions. UNITA once again calls on all countries which still have their nationals in the war zones to remove them without further delay. Today, the civil war zones in Angola are the Provinces of Cunene, Cuando Cubango, Huila, Moxico, Bie, Huambo, Benguela, Cuanza Sul, Cuanza Norte, Malanje, and Lunda. Soon Luanda-Bengo Province will join those.

As of now, UNITA declines any responsibility for what may happen to foreign nationals who insist on staying in the war zones. In view of the complexity of the civil war in Angola, it has become impossible to guarantee the safety of international or religious organizations. Only when peace had been restored in our country will such activities find fertile ground and indispensable tranquility. The Czechoslovak nationals are all near mental collapse. We cannot do anything without the release of the 36 UNITA members who have been detained by the MPLA. Both national and international opinion should not allow themselves to be decieved by the truimphal communiques issued by the MPLA, because guerrilla war, which is supported by the people and which has gained enough ground and time, cannot be defeated by tanks and MIG's. UNITA has not lost anything — neither ground nor people. On the contrary, the guerrilla war continues to reach even further into the north of the country. The next few months will confirm our stand, because the MPLA has no troops except the Cubans mercenaries, who already feel in their flesh the effects on the civil war which has been going on for 7 years.

With this communique UNITA will no longer give particulars about foreigners who have been captured during operations [words indistinct] not a single Angolan, either of Angolan origin or who has been naturalized and who has been captured, will be allowed to leave the country through the help of international organizations.

The struggle triumphs! United we shall win!

16-24 Operations Reported

MB051140 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola on 25 November 1983]

[Text] As part of the progressive march of our general offensive, our forces have been carrying out a large-scale campaign designed to chase out the Russian and Cuban forces who have invaded our country. Accordingly, UNITA forces carried out the following relevant operations 16-24 November 1983:

On 16 November 1983 in Malanje Province our forces annihilated a military supply column which was escorted by Cubans and which was traveling from Luanda to Xa-Muteba, 5 km from that city. A total of four Ural vehicles registration Nos CD31403, CD52143, CD53810 and CD53844 were destroyed. First Lieutenant (Tiago Antonio Pedro), commander of the 7th Company of 671 Battalion of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], was captured.

On 18 November 1983 in Cuanza Norte Province, our forces neutralized the railway traffic between Luanda and Malanje as a result of 26 sabotage actions on the Angola railway. On 17 November 1983 in Cuanza Sul Province UNITA forces destroyed a motorized column carrying Cubans on the Gabela-Quibala road, some 3 km from Conde. A total of 12 Cubans were killed and 6 vehicles burned. In Cuando Cubango Province our forces attacked two battalions of the 67th Brigade in the Baixo-Longa area. A total of 55 FAPLA soldiers were killed. (Manuel Munefango), the commander of one of the battalions and a radio operator, was captured together with very important communications documents. A total of 20 military vehicles — 7 UAZ's, 3 TAZ's, and 10 Stars — and 2 T-34 tanks, and 4 BRDM-2's were destroyed.

On 21 November 1983 in Huambo Province our forces stopped a Land Rover, registration No AAR 2231, on the Huambo-Lubango road. It was carrying a Swiss missionary named (Robert Hartz) and three FAPLA soldiers — (Luciano Lourenco), (Castro Domingos), and (Tiago Tuca). The FAPLA soldiers were arrested, and the missionary released, returning to Caluquembe. On the same day the Belo Horizonte and Samboto posts were taken by storm. At 1300 on 22 November 1983 a bomb exploded inside the (Angotel) building, in the city of Huambo, causing a fire. An assortment of materiel was extensively damaged. A nearby workshop also caught fire and was rendered inoperative. On 24 November 1983 also in Huambo Province our forces captured the enemy position of Mungo, northeast of Bailundo, which had been recaptured a month ago. The enemy suffered 84 confirmed casualties. A total of five FAPLA soldiers were captured alive. Large quantities of war materiel were captured. Our forces destroyed seven Ural vehicles and one BTR.

On 21 and 23 November in Lunda Province our forces captured the towns of Elias de Garcia and (Samaica), situated north of Henrique de Carvalho. At 0500 on 23 November 1983 in Bie Province our forces simultaneously attacked and destroyed the enemy garrisons of (Camundongo) and (Ingulungo) situated 15 and 28 km respectively from the city of Bie. The enemy suffered 125 FAPLA and 8 Cuban dead in the two attacks. A total of 97 AK-47 weapons, 5 14.5-mm anti-aircraft guns, 12,700 rounds of ammunition, and an assortment of materiel were captured. Our forces burned 11 Berliets, TAZ, and Star vehicles. A total of six FAPLA soldiers, including Second Lieutenant (Antonio Manuel Viajem), logistics commander, were captured.

During this period 13 enemy commanders abandoned their units and presented themselves in our liberated areas, and as a result their units are falling apart. UNITA suffered 14 dead and 36 wounded. While the Luanda regime is unable to learn to talk we must all learn to fight.

The struggle triumphs! United we will win!

[Signed] Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola

MOZAMBIQUE

Chief of Staff Visits Nampula Military Units

MB040854 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Lieutenant General Sebastiao Mabote, the chief of General Staff and first deputy minister of national defense, arrived in Nampula last Friday for a working visit to military units stationed in that province. Yesterday Lt Gen Sebastiao Mabote, accompanied by Major General Raimundo Pachinuapa, the state inspector, visited military units stationed in the districts of Malema, Ribaue, and Murrupula. Speaking to soldiers, sergeants, and officers of those units, Sebastiao Mabote appealed for increased battle readiness, as well as production, with a view to carrying out the decisions of the fourth congress with regard to the fight against hunger and armed and unarmed bandits.

Meets With Nampula Officials

MB060802 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Lieutenant General Sebastiao Marcos Mabote, deputy minister of national defense and chief of General Staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces, has called upon the members of the Nampula provincial government to pay greater attention to resolving the pressing problems of local residents. Lt Gen Mabote referred to the need for provincial government members to carry out their activities not only in their offices, but mainly in the countryside where the majority of the people live. Mabote made these recommendations today during a meeting with the Nampula provincial government which was designed to assess the province's political, economic, social, and cultural situation. At the meeting, which was held to help implement the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress decisions, the chief of General Staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces was accompanied by Aranda da Silva, minister of home trade, and high-ranking officials of the chief of general staff.

Student Support for Liberation Movements Urged

MB041200 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Text] The deputy secretary general of the All-Africa Students Union, (Kodmen Wessi), has called on students throughout the African Continent to express their support for liberation movements in southern Africa by forming liberation support committees. Speaking in Maputo yesterday Mr (Wessi) accused the United States of supporting South Africa in its aggressive policies against the frontline states. He condemned the U.S. invasion of Grenada and said that attempts were being made to bring that strategy to southern Africa. Mr (Wessi) is in Maputo as part of a fact-finding tour of southern Africa. The information he is gathering during his tour is to be used by the students union as a basis for its annual program of action in support of the national liberation movements in southern Africa and the frontline states. Mr (Wessi) is due to leave Mozambique early next week.

Justice Minister Returns From Cape Verde Talks

MB021539 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Justice Minister Colonel Oscar Monteiro returned to Maputo this morning from Cape Verde, where he participated in the second meeting of the ministers of justice of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries.

In Praia the ministers of justice of Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe decided to promote similar meetings with the law, justice, and administration subcommission of the ministerial commission which was created after the summit of the heads of state of the five countries.

A joint communique issued in Praia says that the meeting amounted to a step toward strengthening the historic links of friendship and solidarity among the countries which attended the meeting. The same communique adds that the five ministers of justice conducted an extensive debate on burning issues that have arisen in the building of our judicial systems. The Praia meeting also discussed the future possibility of signing accords of cooperation in the judicial field among Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, and Sao Tome and Principe.

NAMIBIA

'Irregularities' Among Black Authorities Reported

MB051750 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the Thirion Commission, Mr Justice Thirion, says irregularities uncovered by the commission in its investigation of second-tier authorities among the black population groups of South-West Africa may be ascribed to the institution of representative bodies as fully fledged governing bodies.

Speaking in Windhoek, he said that constitutional changes had not only created problems of adjustment, but had also led to the wrong interpretation of some directives. Most of the members of executive committees were novices in government administration and had been hamstrung by a lack of experience. The authorities had lost the services of several senior officials and were encountering difficulties in recruiting competent officials. The irregularities were also partly due to the decision of the authorities to appoint their own people to senior positions before the time was ripe. Referring to the Diamond Board of South-West Africa, Mr Justice Thirion said it was not exercising the full measure of control over the industry as prescribed by law. The receiver of revenue had agreed with him that the central government had no control over the diamond industry.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Comments on Botha-Crocker Talks

MB051700 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The talks in Rome today between the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, were concerned mainly with the South-West Africa situation. The talks were held against the background of the UN General Assembly's new demand for sanctions against the republic for what it termed the blocking of independence for South-West Africa. The General Assembly also decided that an intensive information and publicity campaign should be mounted to disseminate information on the South-West Africa issue and what it called the cooperation between South Africa, some other Western nations, and Israel. On the question of sanctions, the Security Council, the only body empowered to ratify such measures, would have to decide what is to be done. By the end of this month, in fact before Christmas, the secretary general, Dr Perez de Cuellar, is also required to report back on the progress he has made in his personal mission on the South-West Africa question.

While the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and his junior ministers contend that South Africa must withdraw from Angola and that there should be no linkage between independence for South-West Africa and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, the United States and South Africa remain committed to the withdrawal of the Cubans as a prerequisite for South- West African independence. South Africa's standpoint on this matter was communicated to the Security Council in October by the ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding. At the time, Mr von Schirnding praised the secretary general for the objective manner in which he had reported on his visit to the subcontinent, saying: This should bring to an end the irresponsible allegations that it was South Africa which was delaying the implementation of the independence plan for South-West Africa. However, the UN bias remains, and this was one of the matters Mr Botha probably raised in his talks with Dr Crocker.

Pacts With Taiwan To Increase Trade Activity

MB051016 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL Business Day Supplement in English 5 Dec 83 p 12

[By Mike Jensen]

[Text] South Africa has concluded a variety of trade and technical agreements with the Republic of China which promise substantially greater economic activity between the two countries. Returning from the Sino-South African ecnomic and technical co-operation conference held in Taipei, Dr Tjaart du Plessis, director-general of the Department of Industry and Commerce, said substantial progress had been made on a number of economically important issues.

One of the major advances was in relaxing certain import restrictions. The department has agreed to reconsider the recent decision to decrease by 25 percent the number of import permits allowed. The limit was imposed this year to meet balance of payments requirements. Instead, the department will issue the "full reasonable requirements" for permits next year.

Taiwan's economic affairs minister, Mr Chao Yao-tung and SA's minister of industries, commerce and tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, signed an agreement calling for banks of each country to establish branches in the other. Dr Du Plessis said the Standard Bank was interested in setting up a branch in Taipei and that if Taiwanese banks conformed to the complex SA regulations, there was no reason why they could not set up here.

South African companies interested in manufacturing computer software, mining and solar energy products will be able to link with Taiwanese companies wanting to engage in joint ventures in South Africa. Firms wanting to collaborate will be put in touch with their Taiwanese counterparts through the Department of Industry and Commerce.

Agricultural co-operation was another area covered in the talks.

Military Defector Arrested at Airport on Return

MB051848 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1734 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 5, SAPA — A South African military defector who sought political asylum in Mozambique earlier this year was arrested by military police at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday while apparently trying to slip back into the country.

Defence Force Headquarters in Pretoria confirmed today that German-born Lieutenant Gerald Andreas Eckert, 24, a male nurse who defected to Mozambique in May, was being held in custody. "Lieutenant Eckert will be held in custody until he has been charged with desertion in terms of the SADF's military discipline code," an SADF spokesman said. Military officials would not disclose any details about his arrest, however.

The young male nurse was intercepted by Mozambican forces on May 28 after he had apparently abandoned his car at Komatipoort in the eastern Transvaal and crossed into Mozambique on foot. He was wearing his SA Medical Services uniform at the time and was also carrying a service pistol.

He reportedly told a press conference shortly afterwards that he was bitterly opposed to apartheid and could no longer live with his conscience as a white military officer. Before he defected, he left a note leaving all his remaining possessions — "the little it is" — to his ex-wife, who apparently lives in Port Elizabeth.

A few days after he was picked up in Mozambique, the SADF issued a statement stating that Lieutenant Eckert, who obtained South African citizenship in January, had experienced "adjustment problems" and "found it difficult to subject himself to military discipline" during his short period of service.

The statement added that the young officer, who was born in West Germany, had been employed by the South African Medical Services from December 6 last year, subject to completion of a 12-month probationary period.

According to newspaper reports, Lieutenant Eckert tried unsuccessfully to obtain permanent residence status in several European countries after his defection to Mozambique.

Journalists Assured Magopa Blacks Not Oppressed

MB030645 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] Black leaders involved in the Magopa question in the western Transvaal told foreign journalists today that the issue was rather a tribal dispute than a resettlement problem. The overseas journalists, mainly representing the American news media, visited the area today in the company of the deputy minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Louis Nel. From interviews conducted with black leaders, it appeared that a section of the Bakwena tribe, who have not yet left their present residential area at Magopa near Ventersdrop, are having serious tribal differences with the group that has already departed. The legitimate tribal chief, Headman Jacob Mare, has already moved to Pachsdraai near Zeerust, with two-thirds of the tribe. It also appeared from the interviews that all leaders at Magopa and Pachsdraai were prepared to settle differences by mutual consultation. Mr Nel said that he and the minister of cooperation and development, Dr Koornhof, had found it necessary to demonstrate to the foreign journalists that the government was not oppressing blacks in the country. The government had not taken the Bakwenas from well developed land to a place without prospects, but to an area where a high standard of living could be maintained.

Thousands Mobilized To Oppose Constitution

MB051126 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Thousands of people are being mobilized in Durban to oppose the government's new constitution. The action follows the South African Indian Council [SAIC] decision to throw its weight behind the new three-tier parliament system. Carmen Ricard has details:

[Ricard] The South African Indian Council decision was consistently attacked at a meeting at Chatsworth Montford community hall yesterday. Two thousand people filled the hall and a marquee next to it to hear several Natal Indian Congress [NIC] and United Democratic Front speakers. The NIC had originally challenged the SAIC head, Amichand Rajbansi, to debate the constitution with them, but he declined the invitation, and an alternative meeting is to be set up.

Speakers and people in the audience said repeatedly that the SAIC and its members were unrepresentative and that their decision did not reflect the wishes of the community. The Chatsworth meeting is to be followed by a similar rally next weekend in Phoenix. An anticonstitution mass meeting will also be held in Wentworth over the weekend, called by the newly formed United Committee of Concern.

Carmen Ricard, Capital News, Durban.

AZAPO National Congress To Be Held 7-9 Jan

MB051912 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1437 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 5, SAPA — The fourth national congress of the Azanian People's Organisation, AZAPO, is to be held in Lenasia in January. In a statement issued to SAPA today, AZAPO's vice president, Mr Saths Cooper, said the congress was scheduled for January 7 to 9 and was open to all black organisations, members of the black community and the press. The theme of the congress is: "AZAPO on the March — Facing the Challenges."

AZAPO originally planned to hold the congress in December but have had difficulty in finding a venue. Several refusals, largely from Indian businessmen and some churches in Lenasia, have forced the organisers to hold the congress later than intended.

Buthelezi Attacks UDF as 'Force of Disunity'

MB050954 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 5 Dec 83 p 3

[By Anton Harber, political reporter]

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, told about 1,500 people at a rally in Soweto yesterday that black disunity was a "terrible crime" that made possible the rampant growth of apartheid and white power. Chief Buthelezi also attacked the United Democratic Front [UDF], saying it "seems to be another force of disunity" and seemed "destined to destabilise the black political struggle in this country".

No organisation could bring about change in South Africa without Inkatha and without the Zulu people, he told the crowd at Jabulani Amphitheatre. He also warned that Inkatha believed in what it was doing, that from now on it would adopt the attitude of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth".

"If some would spit on us, we would spit back. If some would abuse us, we would abuse in turn. If some would beat us with a stick, we too would pick up a stick and beat them," he said.

The crowd, almost all of whom wore Inkatha uniforms or colours, repeatedly interrupted Chief Buthelezi during his four-hour speech to dance, cheer and chant.

"Disunity is the terrible crime of black South Africa which has made possible the rampant growth of apartheid and white power. All my life I have worked for unity among the people and from the earliest days of my political career I have seen disunity among the people as the scourge which we must eradicate from amongst us. We must call a halt to this disunity or we must lie down in subjection and lick the hand that beats us," said Chief Buthelezi.

The lesson of the white referendum was that white solidarity had paid dividends for whites. Black leaders needed to take a leaf out of the book of white leaders. Disunity was the blunder of those who did not recognise the need for a multistrategy approach. There could be no unity until it was realised that different organisations had to do what they could under different circumstances, he said.

There was no place in South Africa where apartheid had been so consistently resisted as in KwaZulu. As long as the people of KwaZulu did not take independence, there would remain a majority of South Africans who opposed racism and who would triumph in the end.

The National Party, the ANC, and the PAC could not succeed in their aims without Inkatha or without a Zulu contribution, he said. The UDF seemed to have made a false start in trying to pit itself against Inkatha and "falling for the temptation of denigrating me for doing the kind of things I have done".

"It is too early to tell yet. There may be time for the UDF to turn away from this tragic course they seem to have already embarked upon, and we pray to God that this might happen," he said.

Chief Buthelezi said the tragedy at the University of Zululand last month occurred when members of the Inkatha Youth Brigade retaliated after being stoned and insulted by students. Chief Buthelezi also said that if blacks could not employ their rights as citizens constitutionally, they would have to use their tremendous power as consumers and workers.

ANC Announces Head of New Office in Australia

MB051550 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The ANC has announced in Lusaka that it has opened an office in Australia which will be headed by Edwin Funde, who was head of the Youth and Student Section. The ANC is being represented in that country at the invitation of the Australian Government, which has also extended an invitation to SWAPO to establish an office there. Mr Funde is expected to address the launching of the African liberation front on 10 December in Australia.

SWAZILAND

Prime Minister Thanks Taiwan for Medical Aid

MB030946 Mbabane Domestic Service in siSwati 1630 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] The Republic of China's ambassador, Mr Chou Tung-hua, today presented a check for $36,000 to help buy drugs for our hospitals. Mr Chou explained that the request for this aid was made on Tuesday this week by the acting prime minister, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, during the prime minister's absence. He said his government was very proud to make this donation, even though it is a modest one. He said the important thing is that this gift comes from the bottom of the hearts of the Chinese people. The prime minister was extremely grateful for the donation of this money, expressing the hope that the Chinese people would not tire of giving the Swazi nation the assistance they urgently need.

[Begin Bhekimpi recording] This shows the love that you Chinese have for us, the people of Swaziland. We believe that this love is not just earthly love but Godly love because a person with love for those people with hardships is a person who then has a gift from God. We hope, sir, that you will thank your government for this great gift on our behalf and ask them not to tire of giving us aid in due course. The mere fact that we only appealed for help yesterday and today we have received such a great gift only shows how blessed we the Swazi nation are. You have also shown us how you, as the Chinese representative in Swaziland, love us simply because of the fact that you efficiently presented our case of hardship to your government. We assure you that the Swazi nation, in its times of hardship, will not forget your kindness, especially to our patients, some of whom go for days without any treatment, while others are given diluted medicine. We hope they will all survive, even those who are on the verge of death. We hope they will now get the proper and complete medicinal treatment so that they may live. Let me say without further ado that, as a matter of fact, we thank people like you, who are here in Swaziland — people who when they see the needs of the country they are in — not only Swaziland — are able to take such humanitarian steps on earth with great love. We hope that you will set the pace and example for many of our friends here in Swaziland. This step you have taken is very much Swazi, for when a Swazi is hungry he appeals to his neighbors, who rush to his aid in all promptness and do not leave him to die of hunger. This is how the Swazis operate here in Swaziland. [end recording]

Gazette Lists Duties of New Cabinet Members

MB050918 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 5 Dec 83 p 1,16

[Text] All the new cabinet ministers have now been officially assigned to their specific duties in terms of the latest *GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE* extraordinary number 260 was published over the weekend.

The police and state security remain under the Prime Minister Prince Bhekimpi's office. The Tinkhundla and parliament are also in the prime minister's portfolio.

The minister without portfolio, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, will be responsible for cabinet office, clearing the house for the Prime Minister, maintaining government efficiency, assessment of the progress of government in attaining specific targets, supervision of the progress of the national development plan, ensuring the optimum utilisation and exploitation of manpower, material and financial resources, ensuring that discipline and respect in the civil service are upheld.

The minister of defence and youth, Colonel Fonono Dube, will be responsible for the commander of the Umbutfo Defence Force, Gcina regiment, and youth activities.

The minister of the interior, Mr King Mtsetwa Matsebula, will be responsible for information, broadcasting and television, immigration, newspapers and other publications and citizenship.

The minister of labour and the public service, Mr Mhlangano Matsebula, will be responsible for labour, the civil service commission, establishments and training, training and localisation, apprenticeship, and trade testing.

The minister of natural resources, land ulitisation and energy, Prince Khuzulwandle, will be responsible for mineral surveys, physical planning, control of land speculation, land consolidation, purchase and disposal of land, water, oil and petroleum, supply of power (SEB), archives and museums, trust commission and housing.

The minister of works and communications, Chief Sipho Shongwe, will be responsible for posts and telecommunications, public works department (PWD), civil aviation, transport (CTA).

The minister of health, Prince Phiwokwakhe, will be responsible for preventive health services, curative health services, hospitals, and clinics.

The minister for education, Mr Dabulumjiva Nhlabatsi: education, sebenta (adult literacy), preschool education (creches), the Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT), and national employment service.

The minister of commerce, industry, mines, and economic planning, Mr Derick von Wissel: trade, external and internal industrial development, handicrafts, economic planning, statistics, tourism, and mines.

The minister of agriculture, Mr Sipho Mamba: agricultural extension, co-operatives, veterinary services, fisheries and forestries, soil conservation, rural development, community development.

The minister for foreign affairs will be responsible for foreign affairs.

The minister of finance: finance, treasury and stores, customs and excise, and income tax.

The minister of justice, Mr David Matse, will be responsible for the attorney general's chambers, public prosecutions, the office of the registrar general, the judicial commission, Swazi traditional courts, prisons, the judiciary and deeds registry.